



# THE INDEPENDENT

35p (IR 45p)

WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 1996



**THE EMPIRE TALKS BACK**  
By Sir John Gieve

**QUESTIONS OF SPORT: £40,000 TO BE WON**  
See page 22

**HOTEL BREAKS**  
Two nights for the price of one

## MPs to break Murdoch grip on TV sport

Cross-party alliance hits tycoon

JOHN RENTOUL  
Political Correspondent

Legislation to stop Rupert Murdoch buying up exclusive rights to top sporting events seemed inevitable last night as a cross-party alliance against the media tycoon formed in both Houses of Parliament.

Labour, which has been building bridges with Mr Murdoch, yesterday delivered what amounted to a snub by announcing it would back an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill in the House of Lords next month.

The move appears to guarantee a government defeat on the issue, as David Melfor, the former cultural heritage secretary, said yesterday that he and other Conservatives would support a ban in the Commons, where the government's majority is at present only three.

"If the people who want a change get together, the change will be made," he said.

Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, said a list of eight events, including the Olympics for which Mr Murdoch's News Corporation is bidding, should be preserved for the main terrestrial television channels.

The eight events - the Olympics, the World Cup, FA Cup and Scottish FA Cup finals, domestic Test cricket matches, Wimbledon, the Grand National and the Derby - are protected by the Government from being shown on "pay-per-view" channels, where viewers pay a fee to watch individual programmes.

However, exclusive rights can still be bought for showing on the main satellite and cable channels. Nine out of ten households do not have satellite or cable, and the rights to sporting events have increasingly been bought by Sky TV, the dominant subscription TV provider.

Dr Cunningham said: "A Labour government would also



Murdoch: £1.2bn bid for future Olympic Games

review the size and scope of the list." Obvious candidates for inclusion are Ryder Cup golf - already bought by Sky TV - and Five Nations rugby - in which Sky is said to be interested - but Labour would not make firm commitments yesterday. Mr Murdoch recently broke new ground by "buying up" and revolutionising rugby league by turning it into a summer sport.

The ban, which has obvious electoral appeal, cuts across attempts by Tony Blair to woo Mr Murdoch, which took the Labour leader to News Corp's retreat on Hayman Island, in Australia, last July. Mr Murdoch, owner of the Sun, Times, News of the World and Sunday Times as well as of Sky TV, has

said he could imagine supporting Mr Blair at the next election.

David Elstein, Head of Programming at Sky, said the list of protected sporting events was an "anachronism from the 1950s". Sky had built up a successful business without any of the events, and a ban would only damage sport. He asked: "Who is going to compensate sports bodies for the losses they suffer as a result of this?"

While proposing the new restraints on Mr Murdoch, Labour still tried hard yesterday to avoid giving him offence. Lord Donoghue, Labour's heritage spokesman in the House of Lords, said: "We are not interested in any campaign against Rupert Murdoch or any other newspaper proprietor. All we are concerned about is the principle of fair access."

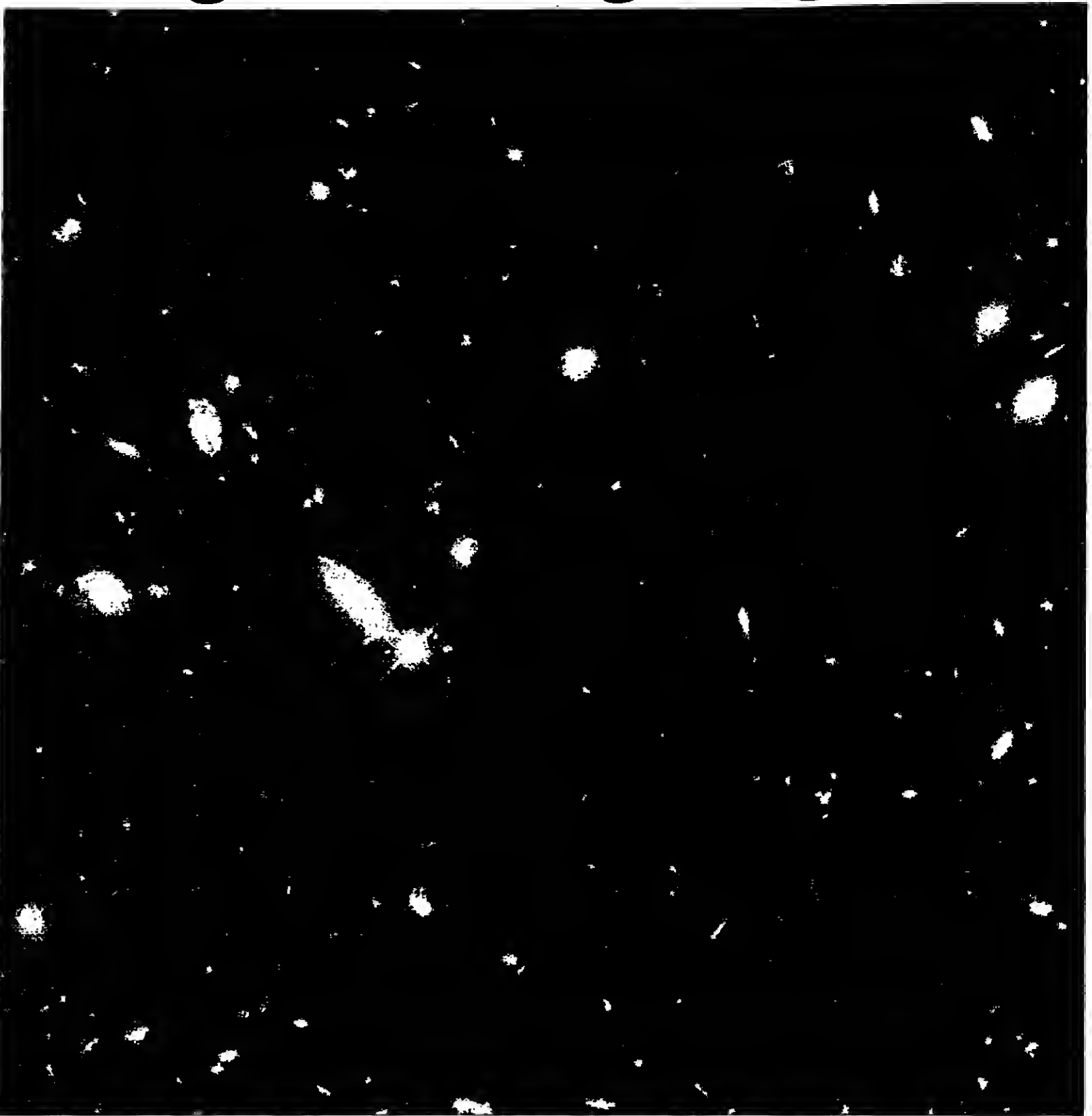
He told peers, who gave the Broadcasting Bill its second reading: "The poor, the old, and the unemployed will certainly not be able to afford much subscription or pay-as-you-view television: the BBC and ITV will not be able to afford to buy the rights to broadcast." He was backed by Lord Thomson of Monifieth for the Liberal Democrats, and is believed to have wide support among independent cross-benchers. If the Bill is amended in the Lords, it is unlikely to be reversed in the Commons.

The Prime Minister hinted in a written answer on Monday that the Government might accept the change: "I am aware of public debate on this issue, and we are keeping it under close review." David Melfor, the former Heritage Secretary, who introduced the 1990 Broadcasting Act, said last week that he had not foreseen that satellite subscription services would generate the revenue needed "to buy up the Crown Jewels of sport".

It was disclosed last week that Sky TV was ready to offer £1.2bn to secure exclusive European rights for the Olympic Games between 2000 and 2003.



## Gazing into the beginning of time



Astronomers had to leave the camera shutter open for 10 days to get this image of more than 1,500 galaxies

Photograph: Nasa

## Hubble image shows dawn of the universe

DANNY PENMAN  
and PAUL VALLIELY

What you can see above stretches the power of human comprehension to its limit. This photograph shows the universe near the moment of its creation.

The picture - the latest taken by the Hubble Space Telescope - amazed delegates at the meeting of the American Astronomical Society in San Antonio this week.

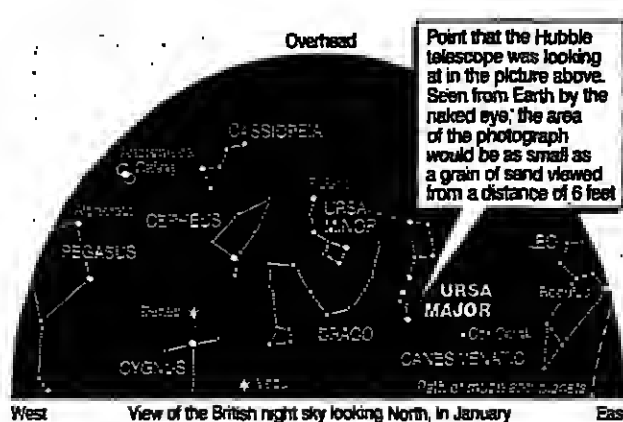
It would take 300,000 years to cross the frame of this picture in a spaceship travelling at 10 times the speed of light. It shows 1,500 galaxies in various stages of formation. The images are so faint they never before have been seen - the eye would need to be 4 billion times more powerful to perceive them.

And it may hold the answer to the question which has perplexed astronomers for generations: how do galaxies form? Each speck or swirl of light is a galaxy containing up to 100 billion stars all streaming away from the Earth at 19,000 miles per second.

Light from the brightest galaxies took about five billion years to reach the Earth. Light from the dimmest set off about 12-15 billion years ago - around the time when the universe was formed.

"As the images have come up on our screens, we have not been able to keep from wondering if we might somehow be seeing our own origins in all of this," Robert E. Williams, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, said.

The past 10 days have been



View of the British night sky looking North, in January

an unbelievable experience. The photograph - which is the result of a single exposure in which the camera shutter was kept open for 10 days - focuses on an area which seen from the Earth was about the size of a large grain of sand held at arm's length. The camera was directed at a point in the sky near the handle of the Big Dipper, a part of the universe continuously in view of the orbiting telescope.

The result has forced Hubble astronomers to abandon the language of scientific precision and to speak only of "wonderment". It is a collection of "things we have not seen before". Andrew S. Fruchter, another Hubble team member, said: "There are elliptical shapes and spirals. Some are like beach balls and footballs. Others are long cigar-shaped clusters of stars."

The images may hold the answer to the enigma of how the existing galaxies came into being. These star groups are found throughout the universe but

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### IN BRIEF

#### Hanging tragedy

The parents of a schoolgirl found choked to death on her bed after being told to tidy her room were discovered hanging in their home. Page 3

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#### Rawler allegation

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ireek's socialists plan to elect new prime minister by the end of the week. Page 9

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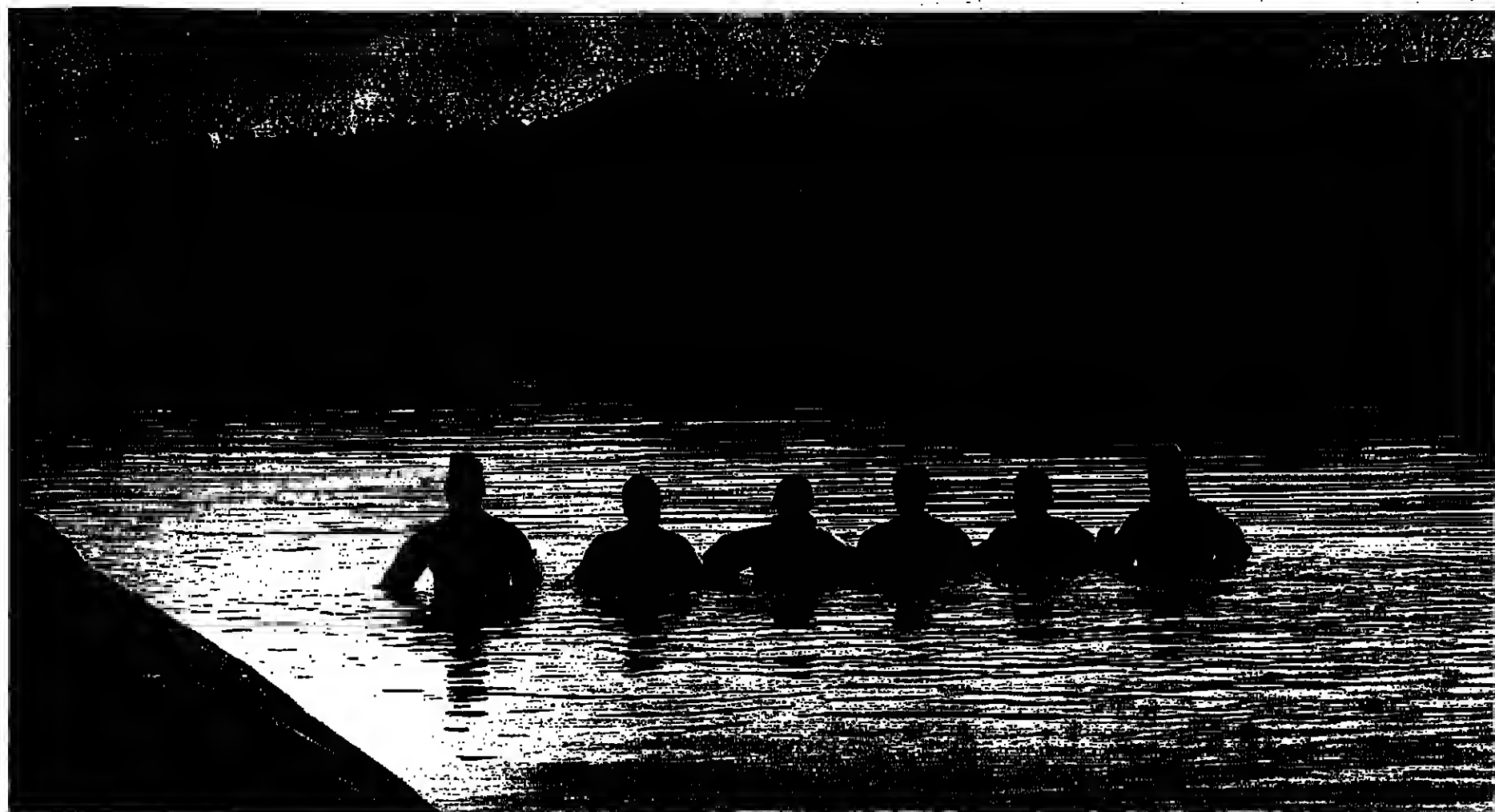


## Man charged over girl, 5

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

A man was charged yesterday with abducting a five-year-old girl who has been missing from her home since Sunday. Police divers and mountain rescue teams were yesterday brought in to the search for Rosemary McCann who disappeared from her home in Oldham, Greater Manchester, while sleeping alongside her brother.

Andrew Pountley, 31, a former boyfriend of Rosemary's mother, was charged with the girl's abduction. He is due to appear before magistrates in Oldham today.



Search squad: Police divers looking for the missing five-year-old Rosemary McCann (above left) in Alexandra Park, Oldham

Photograph: Martin Rickett

Mr Pountley, of Oldham, had been held for questioning shortly after the girl disappeared on Sunday. Rosemary was last seen in her bedroom dressed in her pyjamas.

Rosemary's mother Josie Mahon, 26, made an emotional appeal yesterday for the public to respond to a police call to check garages, outbuildings and vehicles for her daughter.

"I am very, very worried," said Mrs Mahon. "All I want is my child back home. Please, please help the police find my child."

Det Supt Ron Gaffey, who is

leading the hunt, said that if anyone was holding her they should think about the pain they were causing her family.

He told a news conference: "It is now more than 48 hours

since Rosemary was taken. With every minute and hour I am becoming more concerned."

"I am earnestly hoping she is still alive. It may be someone is holding her against her will or

she is tied up alone somewhere."

An extensive search was extended yesterday to ponds and woodland near Rosemary's home.

# Minister carpeted as Tories close ranks over Thatcher

DONALD MACINTYRE  
Political Editor

Allister Burt, a social security minister, has been officially "reprimanded" by government whips for writing a letter to a newspaper attacking "breath-taking" remarks in Baroness Thatcher's controversial lecture last week.

The reprimand was confirmed yesterday as John Major prepared to reunite his party with a speech to businessmen in Birmingham on Friday designed to emphasise the broad appeal of the Conservative party and the potential impact of economic recovery on ordinary people.

The extreme sensitivity of party efforts to put the impact of Lady Thatcher's speech behind it was underlined yesterday by the rebuke for Mr Burt - and Mr Major's refusal to discuss it later in the Commons.

In a candid letter in yesterday's *Times*, Mr Burt, a left-of-centre minister whose departmental head is Peter Lilley,

the Thatcherite Secretary of State for Social Security, pointedly criticised the former Prime Minister for suggesting that the Government's unpopularity stemmed from its failure to satisfy the middle classes.

Pressed by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, yesterday to confirm that the minister had been carpeted for writing his letter,

Mr Burt said: "I set out my views on that issue last week and they haven't changed."

But it was confirmed by senior party sources that the

Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad, had issued a reprimand to Mr Burt for breaking ranks with his letter. Mr Burt - apparently without consulting colleagues as ministerial protocol requires - wrote that "class has for too long been the thorn in the flesh of British life".

His letter adds: "The Labour

party was rightly rejected by the people when it seemed almost aggressively class based."

Mr Burt declares: "What I find breathtaking is the apparent exclusiveness of Lady Thatcher's Conservative horizon."

"And he concludes: "There are staunch Conservatives all over the country, not least in the North, who might not describe themselves as middle class, and why should they?"

It was acknowledged unofficially in ministerial circles yesterday that Mr Burt's remarks did not noticeably conflict with Mr Major's uncompromising reassertion of "One Nation" Toryism, 24 hours after Lady Thatcher's lecture.

But Mr Major did not directly criticise Lady Thatcher and it was pointed out that the Prime Minister's remarks were intended to be the last word.

Official guidance for ministers also requires that they seek permission before writing letters or articles on matters of general political controversy.

But the staff last night were protesting about last week's announcement of 110 redundancies. In a meeting between staff and outgoing director, Jeremy Isaacs, on Friday, they were told that voluntary redundancies would take effect from tomorrow and compulsory redundancies would be enforced next week.

Members of last night's audience for the first of six performances of Sir Michael Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* were handed a leaflet telling them of the redundancies, as well as seeing banners reading: "Thrandole".

"I'm manager of staff here," said one picketing employee last night, "and already we will have to work even harder and even if we keep our jobs, we're going to have to do the job of lots of different people. We're not an elitist bunch. We're low-paid workers and we probably couldn't afford the tickets."

Christina Driver, national officer of Bectu, the union which represents around half of the ROH's 1,000 employees, said the protests were "what you might call spontaneous combustion... We haven't had proper consultation".

As well as the documentary, and the future over the redundancies, the Royal Opera House is still homeless from autumn 1997 for two seasons as its Covent Garden headquarters are renovated.

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## Opera opens to staff picket

JOHN McKE

Around 50 Royal Opera House staff last night picketed outside the troubled Covent Garden institution minutes before an opening night production.

Opera-goers were presented with this latest embarrassment to the ROH on the same night that a controversial BBC2 documentary was being broadcast.

In the episode of the six-part documentary, *The House*, viewers saw the ROH director of public affairs, Keith Cooper, sacking its head of box office, Andrew Follon, and closing the ROH shop.

But the staff last night were protesting about last week's announcement of 110 redundancies. In a meeting between staff and outgoing director, Jeremy Isaacs, on Friday, they were told that voluntary redundancies would take effect from tomorrow and compulsory redundancies would be enforced next week.

Members of last night's audience for the first of six performances of Sir Michael Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* were handed a leaflet telling them of the redundancies, as well as seeing banners reading: "Thrandole".

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# Scargill seeks NUM funds to finance breakaway party

BARRIE CLEMENT, COLIN BROWN and JAMES CUSICK

Arthur Scargill plans to use the £100,000 political fund of the National Union of Mineworkers to finance the Socialist Labour Party, which is to field a candidate in opposition to Labour at the Hensworth by-election on 1 February.

Mr Scargill's supporters have drawn up a motion to sever the union's links with Labour which his allies in Yorkshire intend to table at the NUM's annual conference this summer.

The move provoked opposition from NUM sponsored Labour MPs who have threatened to resign their union membership if it disaffiliates. Leaders of the union outside Yorkshire indicated they would secede from the union if Mr Scargill was successful.

Joe Wills, Midlands area secretary, said the NUM president would have considerable difficulty in winning the support of the union's national executive. He said: "I've been a member of the Labour Party all my life and I will remain a member of the Labour Party. I'm sure every other member of the executive feels the same way."

Dave Douglas, of Hatfield Main colliery, said he was preparing to put forward the proposition at the Yorkshire area council. "The Labour Party no longer represents the working class in general or the miners in particular. It's a waste of time and money," he said.

The SLP candidate for the Hensworth by-election is Brenda Nixon, 35, the wife of a Hatfield Main miner. Mrs Nixon is a friend of Ann Scargill, the NUM president's wife, and has been active in the Women Against Pit Closure group.

Eric Illsley, the past chairman of the NUM group of Labour MPs, said last night: "The miners' sponsored MPs as far as I am aware will remain within the Labour Party, will not have

any intention to do with the new party. I think it is said that Arthur has formed a party and decided to try to attract left-wing support rather than stay within the Labour Party," he said.

Dennis Skinner, the MP for Bolsover, said there was no question of the NUM disaffiliating from the Labour Party and predicted it would never be agreed by the union.

Mr Scargill's new party organisation was set up at a meeting in a London hotel last Saturday. When asked how the party was to be funded, he reportedly told left-wing associates: "Don't worry about the money."

## UK in move to scrap law on 48-hour week

Britain went to court yesterday in the first round of its fight to scrap European laws limiting the working week to 48 hours. Michael Beloff QC, representing the Government in its first legal battle to halt the imposition of social policy by Brussels, said the directive agreed more than two years ago had been brought in without any evidence that the measures "were best advanced at European and not national level".

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg was asked to find the law was illegal - because the European Commission had pushed it through on "health and safety" grounds when it was really a separate matter of social policy.

The legal distinction is crucial. The Government was unable to veto what it saw as interference from Brussels in domestic social policy because any European laws introduced under the health and safety heading only require majority backing from ministers. Social policy issues require unanimity.

If the court finds the law was legally introduced, Britain will remain subject to a 48-hour maximum working week as the norm, coupled with other restrictions compelling workers to rest for 11 consecutive hours a day; to take a break if the working day exceeds six hours; to have at least one day off a week; and to take four weeks paid holiday a year.

An interim "opinion" will be delivered on 12 March.

## Hindley life term questioned by judge

HEATHER MILLS  
Home Affairs Correspondent

One of the country's most authoritative legal figures yesterday questioned the legality of keeping Myra Hindley in prison until she dies.

Underlining the growing rift between the judiciary and the Government, Lord Donaldson, the former Master of the Rolls, questioned whether the Home Secretary had the right to tie the hands of a successor by deciding that a life sentence prisoner should never be released.

He said: "I can well understand him saying that a particular prisoner should not be released now, but I don't see how he can say that he or she should never be released."

Although Lord Donaldson, who now sits in the Lords, categorically denied that he was in any way supporting Hindley, the Moors murderer, his comments will inevitably be seized on by her supporters who believe she should qualify for parole - her initial tariff, or recommended minimum sentence was set by the trial judge at 20 years, which she has now served.

But speaking on BBC Radio yesterday Lord Donaldson said: "My concern is that the Home Secretary should act within his powers. In other words, I am concerned with the rule of law, whether it affects prisoners or anybody else."

He also queried the rights of Home Secretaries to continue moving tariff's ever upwards.

## IN BRIEF

### Alcoholic lemonade ads breach code

A poster campaign promoting the alcoholic lemonade Hooper's Hooch was criticised by the Advertising Standards Authority yesterday for its "likely appeal" to under-age drinkers.

Four members of the public and Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, Nigel Griffiths, had complained to the ASA over the posters. One featured a grinning lemon character holding a bottle of Hooper's Hooch with the headline "Warning, Extreme Refreshment Alc 4.7% ABV". Others said: "Warning, One Taste And You're Hooched".

The makers of Hooch, Bass Brewers, which insisted that the product and posters were designed for 18-35 year-olds, will not be repeating the campaign.

### Arms report delayed

The report of the international commission into paramilitary weapons in Northern Ireland, headed by the former US senator George Mitchell, has been delayed until next week. It will be published on 24 January, instead of tomorrow as planned.

### Shackled patient

A second attempt to obtain emergency bail for a woman Aids victim who is shackled in a hospital ward 24 hours a day was rejected by a High Court judge. Lawyers for the 34-year-old woman, known only as Jane, said they would now seek an emergency injunction to remove the "degrading" chains, pending a judicial review of the controversial practice.

### Ulster killings

Police in Belfast were questioning a number of people about a recent murder in Northern Ireland. Eight men have been shot dead since April last year - five between December and New Year's Day. Direct Action Against Drugs - which the Royal Ulster Constabulary has said is a flag of convenience for the IRA - has claimed responsibility for the killings, but no one has yet been charged with them.

### Invasion of privacy

The privacy of Emma Nicholson, MP for Devon West and Torridge, and her husband, Sir Michael Caine, was invaded when 13 women protested at her stance against lesbian motherhood in their garden last April. ITV's regulator has ruled. Its latest programme complaints report, published today, upholds the couple's complaint about the Lesbian Avengers. Sir Michael and Ms Nicholson believe a Channel 4 camera crew which filmed the incident incited the protest.

### Bomber foiled

A man who was threatening to blow himself up in a car with a homemade bomb was overpowered when police stormed the vehicle and pulled him out. The incident in Old Amersham, Buckinghamshire, was said to have begun after a row with Halma, an engineering company based there, over the rights to a patent. Paul Barker, of Amersham, was being held in police custody. His wife, Janice, was arrested in North Wales, on behalf of the police at Amersham, on suspicion of conspiracy to blackmail.

### Mawhinney protest

Four students and a teacher have been charged with assault and threatening behaviour against the Conservative Party chairman Dr Brian Mawhinney and his wife, Betty, in an incident during a protest against the Asylum Bill in which paint was thrown in Westminster last November.

### Moore estate

Judges at the Court of Appeal reserved judgment on an attempt by the daughter of the sculptor Henry Moore to gain control over millions of pounds worth of copies of her father's works. Mary Moore, acting under her married name of Danowski, was appealing against a judgment in 1993 which gave control of her father's works to the Henry Moore Foundation. She claimed "artist's copies" of her father's works produced from 1977 were his personal property and so became part of his personal estate following his death in 1986.

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	£5,000	14.9%	£284.98	£7,379.28
ABNEY NATIONAL	£1,000	15.5%	£103.28	£2,717.36
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# Trawler crew 'sent to their deaths'



Two of the crew members of the *Pescado* who died, the skipper Neil Curry and his fiancée Jo Ann Thomas

A six-strong novice crew were "sent to their deaths" by two men who ran their unseaworthy trawler, a court was told yesterday.

The steel-hulled scalloper *Pescado* was unstable when it sailed from Falmouth, Cornwall, on 25 February 1991 without a qualified skipper, it was alleged.

After a so-far unexplained capsizing, 13 miles off Dodman Point, south Cornwall, the crew of five men and one woman "were left to sink or swim", the prosecutor, Francis Gilbert QC, told the jury at Bristol Crown Court.

"In the event they all drowned," he said on the opening day of what could be the six-week manslaughter trial of Joseph O'Connor, 44, and Alan Ayres, 56.

The crew of the 100-ton Plymouth-registered vessel were only 15 minutes flying time by rescue helicopter from the Royal Naval Air Station at Culdrose when they died, Mr Gilbert said.

But one of the *Pescado*'s radios was broken and was not connected to a power supply. A short-wave radio was on board but none of the crew was a qualified operator.

"It is an irony the rescue ser-

vices were so close but unaware of the need for their help," the QC said.

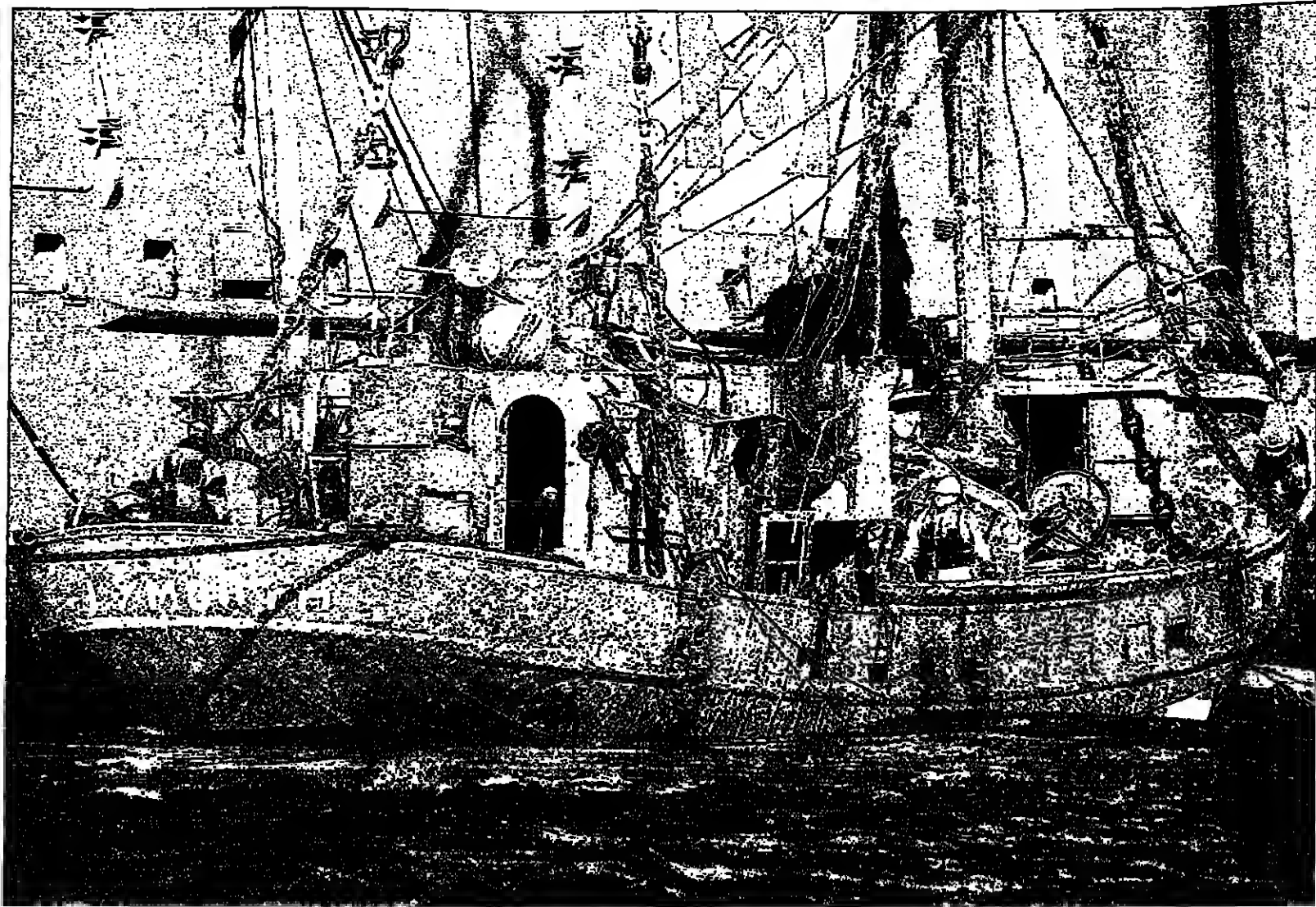
The vessel was not equipped with an emergency radio alert beacon and its sole out-of-date liferaft was "useless", and was lashed to the railings.

The Crown said that the vessel had been sent to sea without safety authorisation, following a refit "from barely more than being fit for scrap". Some of the crew would have survived if the required safety equipment had been on board, it was claimed.

"None of this crew had any qualification whatsoever - they were in effect novices sent to their deaths by the defendants," the prosecutor said.

"It is the Crown's case that at the time of the last fatal voyage, that *Pescado* was being operated by the two defendants effectively in partnership, and they are both responsible in manslaughter for the deaths of the crew," he told the jury.

Mr O'Connor, of Durnford Street, Plymouth, and Mr Ayres, of North Hill, Plymouth, were the managing agent and the director respectively of Guideday Ltd, which owned the 35-year-old *Pescado*. They have each pleaded not guilty to six manslaughter charges, alleging



Maritime tragedy: The *Pescado*, which capsized killing all six crew members, and its operators, Alan Ayres (below left) and Joseph O'Connor

breach of duty of care. It is said that the breach amounted to gross negligence, and was a substantial cause of their deaths.

Those who died were the skipper, Neil Curry, 38, from South Uist, Western Isles; his 23-year-old fiancée and ship's cook, Jo Ann Thomas, from Plymouth; 34-year-old Peter Birley, from Fleetwood, Lancs; Adrian Flynn, 21, from Lincoln; Sean Kelly, 17, from Brixham, Devon; and Steven Hardy, 30, from Plymouth.

As the majority of them had little or no experience of scallop fishing, they were "innocents" when they sailed on the last voyage.

Mr Gilbert claimed that although the *Pescado* was issued with a Department of Transport fishing vessel safety certificate

in 1987, it was never valid, because an engine was later replaced.

This vessel never, ever sailed within the law from the moment O'Connor bought her until she sank," said Mr Gilbert.

After buying the vessel in 1987, Mr O'Connor had rigged her as a scalloper before going bankrupt two years later.

He persuaded a friend, Richard Cox, to buy Guideday Ltd, and purchase the *Pescado* from the receiver, for £5,500 in March 1990.

Mr O'Connor supervised the later refitting and re-equipping of the vessel, an operation that was largely financed by Mr Ayres, said Mr Gilbert.

The Crown claimed that Mr O'Connor had deliberately avoided alerting the Department of Transport to the fin-

ished refit and was "hoping to get away with it".

Evidence pointed to the vessel being lost in a capsizing resulting from difficulties with the gear, with the crew being unable to remedy with the problem before she was dragged down. However, it may be said that it resulted from a collision with a surface vessel or submarine, Mr Gilbert told the jury.

But whatever the cause of the sinking, it was the lack of stability and the absence of safety equipment which was the most serious aspect of the case, Mr Gilbert said.

The charges follow a police investigation that was launched after the *Pescado* was raised from the seabed in a £250,000 operation in September 1993. The hearing was adjourned until today.



## Lloyds offers couple a way out of ruin

STEVE BOGGAN and MARK LISTER

A couple who won £77,500 damages from Lloyds Bank have been offered a chance to avoid being bankrupted in a £150,000 counter-claim by the bank's lawyers.

Richard Spindler and Julia Verity made legal history last September when they were awarded damages over bad loan advice given by a branch manager. However, as the case resumed, they faced ruin because of a disputed claim over earlier mortgages which the bank says are still outstanding.

During yesterday's hearing at the High Court in Leeds, Mr Spindler, 36, an acupuncturist, and Mrs Verity, a 55-year-old teacher, both from Henley, in Oxfordshire, were offered a compromise which would leave them owing about £27,000 instead of the £160,000 initially claimed by the bank. They argue that they owe nothing.

Gregory Mitchell, counsel for the bank, said the couple owed £150,000 on loans, including the mortgage on a failed property speculation and interest. However, when making their statement of claim in the last case, the couple demanded interest only up to December 1990, instead of the present day.

Mr Mitchell said the bank, in its turn, was now prepared to return to December 1990 when the interest was lower on all outstanding accounts. Lloyds Bank would credit the couple with the £77,529 won at the earlier hearing which would then pay off all the loans and leave a mortgage debt of £27,000 pounds, plus the interest to date. That, amounting to about £10,000, would be offset by a claim for loss of earnings on Mrs Verity's part for about the same amount.

Mr Mitchell said: "My counter-claim still stands for the full figure, but so the plaintiffs don't have the full interest on their accounts... I can short-circuit it in the way I have done by returning to December 1990." It is understood the couple were considering the offer last night. The case continues.

## Parents are found hanged after daughter's death

The parents of a schoolgirl found choked to death on her tie after being told to tidy her room were yesterday discovered hanged in their home.

Michelle Henry, 12, died two months ago after looping a blue silk tie round her neck and fixing the other end to the bedroom door handle.

Her parents Barbara, 38, and Michael, 37, had battled to come to terms with the tragedy.

But yesterday Michelle's uncle, Derek Francis, - who originally found the young girl dead in her room - returned from a night shift to the home he shared with the family in Montpellier, Bristol, to discover his sister Barbara and Michael hanging from the staircase.

Last November, Mr Francis, a 34-year-old hotel cleaner, had found Michelle's body behind her bedroom door, the morning after he had scolded his niece for having an untidy room.

Mr Francis told an inquest into her death: "When I came back in the morning, Michelle's bedroom door was closed but the light was still on."

"I had words with her the night before about her room being untidy and I did not want to



Barbara Henry (left) and her daughter Michelle



trouble her, so I went downstairs to make myself a drink.

"Later on I knocked on the door two or three times and there was no reply. I pushed my way into the room and saw Michelle lying on the floor."

"I thought she had passed out or was sick. But then I noticed the tie had been knotted around the door handle and I realised she was dead."

His sister, a worker at a homeless project, had broken down after the inquest hearing. "We are desperately trying to come to terms with her tragic

death - but I don't know how," Mrs Henry said.

"She was a very happy and sensible girl and I just cannot see her killing herself."

"We used to tell her off quite a lot for being untidy and she would be a bit grumpy for a while but it would never last."

Yesterday grieving relatives gathered at the family's three-bedroom terraced house.

Mrs Henry's cousin, Vida Tucker, 54, said: "We are a very close-knit family."

"Michelle's death hit us all very hard. Her parents never got

over her death and clearly they just couldn't handle it any more."

She added: "I saw them a few days ago and although they were smiling, under the surface they were both completely shattered."

"It takes time to come to terms with a tragedy like Michelle's death and I know they could never forget it."

Mrs Henry's father, Granville, said: "I just can't believe what has happened. There was never any sign that they would do anything like this."

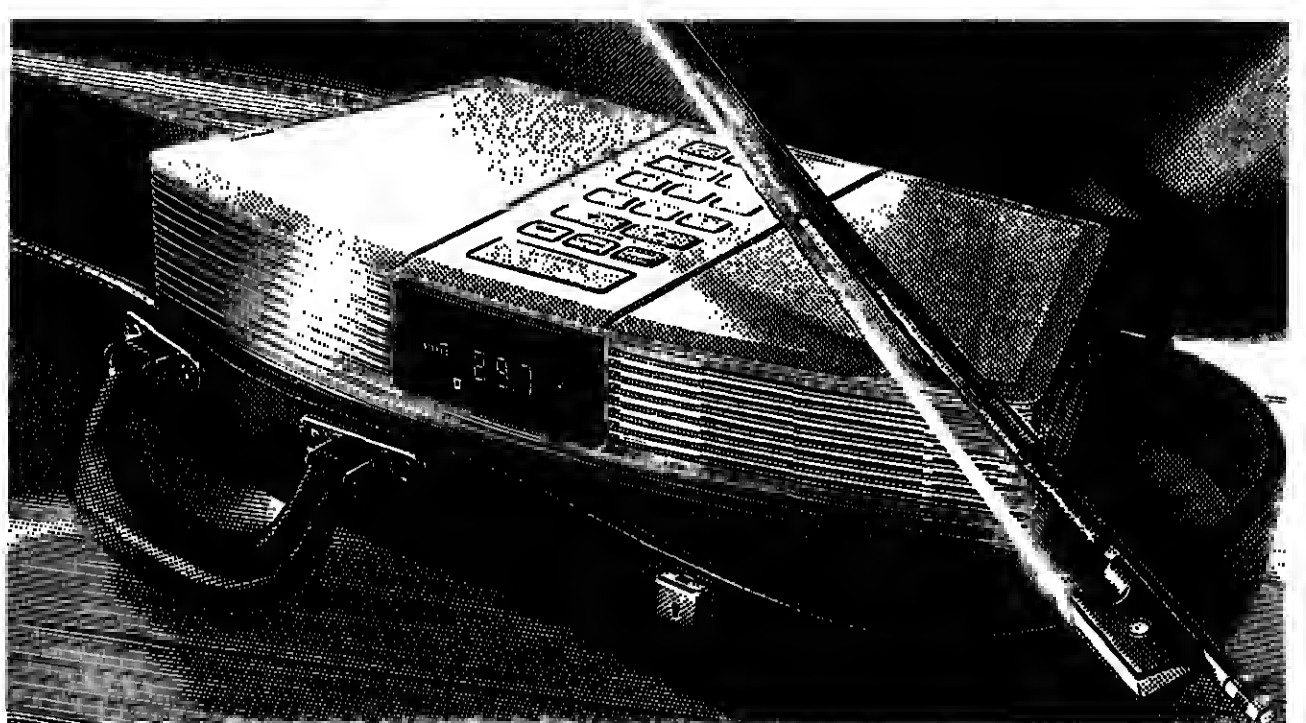
"They were very close to Michelle but they obviously couldn't come to terms with what happened."

"I can't believe this is happening," he added.

The Avon Coroner, Paul Forrest, recorded a verdict of accidental death at the inquest into Michelle's death in November.

He said at the hearing: "I have severe doubts about recording a verdict of suicide because a 12-year-old child is too young to be considered capable of planning to take her own life."

"It is more likely that Michelle's death was a result of an accident."



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## Sexual 'banter' led to dismissal

An insurance company branch where a manager is alleged to have harassed three women enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere where banter was freely exchanged, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Ms Helen Gower, counsel for the manager, Michael Jennings, who is claiming unfair dismissal, said many of the staff at the Prudential office in south-east London enjoyed trading personal comments among themselves.

The tribunal in Croydon, south London, has heard allegations that Mr Jennings, 47, harassed three women at the branch. They cannot be named for legal reasons.

Ms Gower said boards erected on office walls to celebrate 25 years' service to the company by Mr Jennings included ref-

erences to his appearance. Among suggestions displayed for a possible retirement job was that he promoted slimming regimes. He appreciated the fun, she said.

One of the women, a 17-year-old trainee, complained of being bombarded with gifts from Mr Jennings, including perfume, a ring, and a note asking her to marry him, the tribunal was told.

She became depressed at his unwanted attention, losing interest in her appearance and failing to wash her hair or change her clothes. She confided in other members of staff, Tony McDonald, the personnel manager who investigated the harassment claims, told the tribunal. He said he had rejected claims that the woman was fo-

menting discontent against her boss and said it was only "human nature" for workmates to discuss her accusations. He said he believed that there was a case to answer.

The teenager felt too embarrassed to speak officially of her ordeal, Mr McDonald said, until she was dismissed for "budgetary reasons".

The tribunal later heard how Mr Jennings' new wife, Katrina, had written to the division's general manager saying the couple were experiencing difficulties, and accusing the trainee of fabrication.

The tribunal was also told that Mr Jennings joked publicly about a female sales manager's failure to clinch two deals, parodying the phrase used in the office for failure to clinch a deal

- a blow out - as a "blow job" saying the woman had had "two blow jobs in one night". He also openly criticised her decision to move in with a colleague.

In another incident, he told the woman, who had been speaking to a prospective job applicant: "You were almost in bed with him". Mr Sutton told the tribunal that the remarks humiliated her. "She was being made out to be a tart," he said.

Robin Taylor, regional manager of Prudential's central region who oversaw the final stages of the disciplinary proceedings, said he rejected Mr Jennings' claim that the three women had hatched a plot to secure his downfall and the premise that his sexual innuendoes were typical.

The hearing resumes today.



4  
politics

On guard: Security staff protesting outside the House of Commons yesterday against plans to privatise the Custody Service, which protects government and other high-profile buildings in London. Photograph: Edward Webb

## Rifkind promises to keep 'beacon of freedom' alight

Foreign Secretary heads off Labour attack over World Service □ MPs back Private Bill to restrict tobacco adverts

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday bought his way out of trouble in the Commons over cuts in the BBC World Service with an announcement that private sector money could be used to fund running costs. Faced with the prospect of a rebellion by Tory backbenchers, Mr Rifkind said the Government did not want to do anything that would damage the World Service.

Executives of the Foreign Office-funded service met at the weekend to consider cuts in its 42 language broadcasts in order to accommodate cuts of £4.5m in its 1997-98 operating costs – down to £132m – and a £22m cut in capital spending over the three years 1996-99.

Opening the debate, Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary, described the World Service as a "beacon of freedom" and said cuts would damage Britain's diplomatic influence and trade. But, following Mr Rifkind's concession, the Labour motion expressing alarm, at the "likely reduction in the range of foreign language broadcasts was rejected by 310 to 291."

Speaking after the vote Mr Cook said he was pleased the Government had changed its mind and decided to be more flexible over funding. "This would have been a shoddy way to have treated one of this country's greatest assets,"

Emma Nicholson, in her first speech from the Liberal Democrat benches since quitting the Tory ranks, said the value of the World Service was incalculable. "I fear that where dictators and oppressors have failed, our own Treasury book-keepers, aided by weak-willed, blinkered, ostrich-minded ministers, will succeed, weakening, or eventually silencing altogether, a powerful voice for Britain."

But Mr Rifkind said the Government had a duty to discuss with the BBC whether their concerns were justified and see if it could make do with slightly reduced resources. "We have no intention of seeing the removal of successful language services," the Foreign Secretary said. And, paving the way for his offer to Tory critics, he said there was evidence that "life is going to be considerably easier for the World Service than they fear."

Inside Parliament  
Stephen Goodwin

The biggest change asked of the BBC is to raise private finance to replace the £22m cut from capital spending – mainly to pay for a new transmitter in Oman for the Arabic service and requirements at its Bush House headquarters.

"On the evidence that is now accumulating it would appear that there is scope for around £30m of private funding," – more than meeting the needs of the capital programme.

Mr Rifkind told MPs that both he and the Chief Secretary, William Waldegrave, would "look sympathetically" at providing the flexibility to allow resources to be moved into the operating account.

While the concession was accepted with cautious relief by some backbenchers, former prime minister Sir Edward Heath remained hostile to the introduction of private finance into the service, claiming it threatened the BBC's reputation for independence.

"Privatisation can go too far. This is a sphere which ought to remain entirely under BBC control."

Sir Patrick Cormack, Tory MP for South Staffordshire, said he did not for one half-second question Mr Rifkind's commitment, still less his integrity. "But I am troubled about the injection and still more the potential reliance on private finance for the BBC."

"It is almost a contradiction in terms. There are some things which quite rightly and properly should be funded from the public purse."

MPs voted by 158 to 39 in support of a move to ban advertising and sports sponsorship by tobacco companies. Though Simon Hughes's Tobacco (Protection of Children and Restriction of Promotion) Bill has no chance of becoming law because of the tight timetable for backbench legislation, its introduction was a significant expression of MPs' opinion.

Mr Hughes, Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, said he wanted to protect young people from the "insidious" effects of tobacco advertising. It had been banned from television and radio and it was now time to ban it from billboards and sports events.

The British Medical Association is putting pressure on ministers to give its members better protection in the surgery against violent patients

## Doctors demand new security from attack

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

Doctors' leaders who are due to meet ministers tomorrow to demand better security in surgeries are also pressing police chiefs to agree that they should be allowed to examine violent patients in police stations instead of on practice premises.

Doctors are worried about the threat of attacks both from mentally ill patients who have been released into the community and from drug addicts.

The British Medical Association will put pressure on Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, at a meeting tomorrow, arguing that family doctors are in the front line in dealing with potentially dangerous patients.

The BMA is not pressing for guards to be appointed to all GP surgeries but it has asked the Government to consider creating high-security surgeries with protection for doctors where selected patients could be treated.

Officials at the Department of Health are considering the BMA's proposals as ministers prepare to face renewed criticism over the release of mentally ill patients into the community.

Mr Dorrell, who is meeting the BMA to discuss the renegotiation of their contract, will announce details shortly of a new patients' charter for the mentally ill. It will give patients specific rights to treatment in the community, and lay duties on health authorities to provide the services.

Mr Dorrell underlined his concern in a review of the National Health Service in a speech last week at Manchester Business School. "A modern mental health service needs to provide a spectrum of care, including acute hospital space, as well as sheltered support, community mental health teams and facilities to deal with crisis care."

"When those services are properly provided, and the links with social services all work properly, we deliver a high-quality service. But there are too many

GPs who suffered injury because of their profession



June 1993 Dr Gerald Flack, a Kent GP shot by a former patient



October 1994 Dr Don Mackay, an Airdrie GP fatally stabbed in his surgery



December 1995 Dr Anthony Inwalde, London GP, stabbed by a patient

examples of breakdown and too many areas where some part of the jigsaw is missing," he said.

In highlighting "variations" in national care for the mentally ill, Mr Dorrell said the public had been led to believe that it was the Government's policy to close all acute mental health facilities and treat all patients in the community, but "that is not and never has been an accurate description of our policy."

A comprehensive care plan for dealing with psychiatric patients in the community should have been in place by the end of last month. But reports suggested that in some cases cover

for such patients was missing. Mr Dorrell has admitted that there are now a series of reports, including national accounts from bodies such as the Audit Commission and local ones, of tragic incidents involving mentally ill patients "which show quite clearly that further urgent work is needed to deliver good mental health services across the country as a whole."

He said there needed to be a continuing focus on providing the full range of care, including in-patient care and longer-term professional staff provision for those with the most pressing needs.

## 'Gridlock' in secure beds adds to crisis on wards

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

Health managers claim that "gridlock" in the secure beds designed to take the most disturbed and potentially violent offenders has contributed to the dangerous pressures on acute psychiatric wards.

It is one of six factors that have led to what the Mental Health Act Commission has called a "crisis" in mental health services which it says has worsened over the past two years.

The diversion of mentally ill offenders from prison to hospitals has led to the three tiers of locked wards – medium secure, and regional secure units, and the special hospitals such as Broadmoor – "sitting up", increasing the difficulty of exchanging patients between them.

At one end of the system, approaching a quarter of Broadmoor's 450 patients could be discharged to a less secure environment if space was available, Liz Hill, clinical unit manager at the special hospital, says.

At the other end, ordinary acute wards are having to handle growing numbers of seriously disturbed patients because they cannot be moved up to more secure accommodation. More medium secure beds are being built – numbers are due to rise from about 700 to 1,000 by March and 1,200 by December in a £45m programme.

But both the Mental Health Act Commission and the Royal College of Psychiatrists fear that few of the places will be available to support local services. The total still stands well below the 2,000 places that the

Butler report calculated were needed 20 years ago. Other factors in the crisis, according to the commission, which acts as a watchdog for patients detained under the Mental Health Act, include:

- An underestimate of how many beds were needed to allow for the occasional relapses that people discharged from long-term care suffer;
- Discovery of previously undetected cases by new community teams;
- Too few 24-hour nursed beds outside hospital for patients who cannot cope on their own;
- Homelessness; and
- Premature discharge in order to free beds which produces "revolving door" admissions, where patients suffer early return to hospital.

The result is a more disturbed mix of patients on wards

where growing numbers are formally detained. The commission highlighted the case of a martial arts expert who became highly disturbed on an ordinary psychiatric ward. He was put into seclusion but smashed the door. He was only restrained when the police arrived. No secure bed could be found for him for a week, during which time he had to be kept heavily sedated and barricaded into the seclusion room – treatment the staff and commission agreed was "inhumane."

The commission says that while many long-stay patients have successfully transferred to Care in the Community, "there remains a core of patients unable to make the transition and for whom community care is arguably the least preferred option. This reality can be lost in the pressure for change."

## Asylum rules face Lords challenge

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Political Correspondent

A key test of Labour's attitude to the Government's drive to curb the number of asylum seekers is looming in a House of Lords vote on the withdrawal of welfare benefits from applicants awaiting appeals.

While Labour has put down a "prayer" deploring regulations set to bring in the change by 5 February, by convention Opposition peers do not seek to vote down legislation in its entirety.

But the Liberal Democrat health and social security spokesman, Earl Russell, has called on Labour to vote for a motion that he has tabled which does not oppose the regulations as such, but urges that following their implementation the Government should "ensure that asylum seekers pursuing appeals have visible legal means of support pending the conclusion of their appeals."

A vote in favour of the motion when the regulations come before the House on 30 January would be embarrassing for the Government but could also have important practical ramifications, because it would show there was insufficient political backing to pursue the abolition of a fallback source of help under the 1989 Children Act.

The Act puts a duty on local councils to provide support and accommodation for children in need in their areas.

A combination of Labour and Liberal Democrat support, plus expected backing from some Tory rebels and most of

the bishops, could ensure the vote is won, Liberal Democrat strategists argued yesterday.

A Labour Lords source said the party felt "very strongly about these regulations, hence our prayer," but it was still reflecting on whether to whip its peers to vote for the motion.

The Labour front bench is nervous because of threats from the Conservatives that if Labour voted down government legislation they would exploit their greater numbers to the full in Opposition. But some critics allege that the party might be tempted to drag its feet because the asylum seekers' cause is not popular with the electorate.

The Liberal Democrats pointed out that Labour had been happy to support use of the motion procedure on 5 December when the Government was defeated over probation officers' training. On that occasion peers voted by 108 to 85 for higher levels of training than those put forward by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Lord Russell said yesterday: "I don't believe in using starvation as an instrument of policy, and I cannot see any legal way these people can get enough to eat."

The bishops, led by the Bishop of Ripon, are expected to give strong support to the motion, along with Tory peers such as Baroness Flather, who led a modest revolt on the 1993 Asylum Bill. Opponents of the regulations fear that unless Labour instructs its peers to attend, many will have left the House before the vote is taken.

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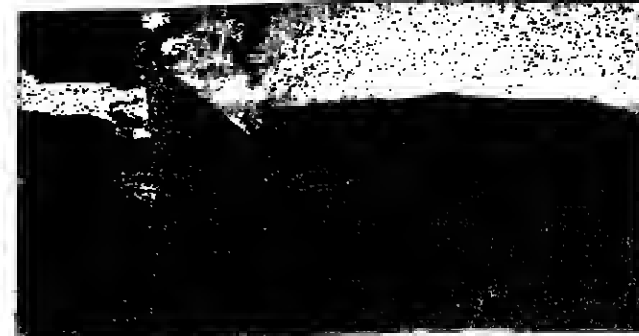
# Air aces test Eurofighter in a fantasy flight from reality



Image of war: Lt Kevin Seymour using the flight simulator at the launch of the new game. Photograph: Dillon Bryden



Sky's the limit: The simulated effect of flying a Eurofighter 2000C, the next generation of fighter jets



## WILL BENNETT

In the skies over an unidentified nation yesterday, Flt Lt Sandy Gordon, of the RAF, and Lt Kevin Seymour, of the Fleet Air Arm, fought a fierce aerial battle, each twisting and turning to avoid being shot down.

The honour of the Royal Navy was narrowly maintained by Lt Seymour who shot down Flt Lt Gordon seconds before his own fighter was reduced to scrap metal by a missile.

In reality, Flt Lt Gordon, who flew Tornado F3 fighters during the Gulf war, and Lt Seymour, who spent two years patrolling

Bosnia in Harrier jump-jets, were taking part in the launch of a new computer game.

But the fact they were there illustrates how the boundaries between fantasy and reality in the computer world are becoming blurred, with combat simulators bridging the two.

The two fighter pilots were playing a CD-ROM game that simulates flying the Eurofighter 2000, the next generation of fighter being jointly produced by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain. Ironically, the game is available six years before the plane is due to be in service.

But Digital Image Design (DID), designers of the Eurofighter game TFX:EF2000, have also produced Sigma, a cockpit training simulator for the Ministry of Defence already in use at RAF bases. The company, based in Warrington, Lancashire, was asked to design Sigma after an earlier fighter simulator computer game became a best-seller.

When DID started work on TFX:EF2000 it was given access to declassified information by British Aerospace, the UK contractors for Eurofighter, who also sent representatives to yesterday's launch.

While researching the game, DID made contacts in the RAF that culminated in the company landing a contract for a laser-guided weapons simulator, for pilots to practise precision bombing. The company is now involved in projects for all three armed services.

No computer game can imitate exactly what it is like to be a fighter pilot. But some tactics are as effective in fantasy as in real life. Lt Seymour scored his winning hit by hurking above Flt Lt Gordon's airfield, waiting for him to take off. The Americans used the same tactics against the Iraqis in the Gulf war.

## Train death prompts call for new fire escape drill

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport correspondent

British Rail has been asked to improve emergency procedures on all its trains following criticism in a report into a fire on board a train in Maidenhead, Berkshire, last year.

One man died in the incident on 8 September, when he jumped out of the train into the path of an oncoming train, after fire broke out on the high-speed train travelling from Paddington to Swansea.

Mike Holmes, the inspector who investigated the accident for the Health and Safety Executive, found that the cause of the fire was that a diesel tank fell off the front engine and the split fuel resulted in a severe fire which affected two coaches but fortunately, according to Mr Holmes, "did not spread on to seating".

As a result of faulty maintenance, the bolts holding the tank had fallen off or sheared and when all other similar trains were inspected a "small number of bolt deficiencies" were found, but "none posed a danger".

Mr Holmes's report says that there should be "improved instructions and procedures" for the fitting of fuel-tank securing bolts and that changes in the way tanks are held on to engines should be considered.

However, the main focus of his 10 recommendations is on the way that emergencies are dealt with by train crew.

The passenger who died, Ian Jones, a civil servant, was killed in the ensuing panic which was made worse by the difficulties of communication between train staff and passengers.

There were criticisms from some passengers that the crew had been too busy identifying the cause of the fire to communicate instructions to passengers. One passenger later

wrote to the *Independent* saying other deaths had only been narrowly avoided.

Terence Cudhird said: "A passenger in front of me half opened the carriage door on the 'wrong side' but was persuaded not to jump. Seconds later the express from Bristol came by at high speed."

Mr Cudhird asked: "Do the rail companies have an evacuation policy at all?"

In fact, Mr Holmes clearly states that the emergency procedures are inadequate and recommends "a review of emergency equipment and detaining facilities provided for passengers should be undertaken".

He adds that procedures concerned with "the control of passengers in emergency situations" should be reviewed.

One specific problem was that the staff can, at present, only communicate with all passengers through loudspeaker systems from a very limited number of locations and in an emergency it may be necessary to communicate quickly with the passengers. Mr Holmes has recommended that the use of pre-recorded or automatic announcements should be considered.

Mr Holmes also said the role, effectiveness and accessibility of hammers should be reassessed, as should be the accessibility of door handles and the use of signs and instructions. At present, British Rail is the sole train operator, although private companies are due to take over the Paddington InterCity services next month.

An electrical short-circuit was blamed for a fire on board the 5.35am Bristol to London InterCity train yesterday. The blaze was put out by automatic fire extinguishers. There were no injuries and passengers were taken back to Bristol to continue their journey on another train.



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## DAILY POEM

### Innocence: 1945

By Adrienne Rich

"The beauty of it was the guilt. It entered us, quick schnapps, forked tongue of ice. The guilt made us feel innocent again. We had done nothing while some extreme measures were taken. We drifted. In the Snow Queen's huge hallroom had dreamed of the whole world and a new pair of skates. But we had suffered too. The miracle was: felt nothing. Felt we had done nothing. Nothing to do. Felt free. And we had suffered, too. It was that freedom we craved, cold needle in the bloodstream. Guilt after all was a feeling."

Adrienne Rich, one of America's most respected poets, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1929 and was educated at Radcliffe College. She has published 16 volumes of poetry and four prose works, the most recent, from which this poem is taken, being *Dark Fields of the Republic: Poems 1991-1995* (Norton, £7.50). Her staunch support of the rights of the individual, across racial and political divides, and her ability to peer into the chaos engendered when these rights are ignored, has caused Nadine Gordimer to describe her as "the Blake of American letters".

*Dark Fields of the Republic* by Adrienne Rich is also available on audiocassette, read by the author, at a combined price of £18.95 for hardback and cassette (Norton).



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## international

Hostage crisis: Liberals seek no-confidence vote and privatisation minister resigns as Russian onslaught on rebels continues

## Duma attacks Yeltsin over rescue fiasco

HELEN WOMACK  
Moscow

Communists and liberal reformers alike heaped criticism on President Boris Yeltsin yesterday for his handling of Russia's latest hostage crisis when the newly-elected State Duma met for the first time.

Underlining the pressure on Mr Yeltsin, his high-profile privatisation chief, Anatoly Chubais, yesterday resigned, putting a question-mark over the future of economic policy.

Comments from the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, that it would be better if Mr Yeltsin did not stand for a second term in June's presidential election were predictable. But the decision by the liberal Yabloko grouping to seek a vote of no-confidence in the government over the crisis in Pervomayskoye was a blow.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's Our Home is Russia bloc was counting on co-operation from Yabloko to restrain the Communists and nationalists in the new parliament.

Looking further ahead, many analysts believe Mr Yeltsin would only have a chance of winning the presidency again if the Yabloko leader, Grigory Yavlinsky, sacrificed his own presidential ambitions and supported him against Communist and nationalist candidates. But yesterday's outburst from Yabloko left little hope of that.

While Russian troops continued to battle with Chechen rebels in an attempt to free scores of hostages still trapped in Pervomayskoye, Yabloko declared the present Kremlin administration incapable. "Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin are dangerous for society, both with their action and their lack of action," it said in a written statement.

With only 45 deputies in the 450-seat Duma, Yabloko is far from the majority of 226 votes needed to carry a motion of no-confidence. But if the dominant

Communists, with 158 seats, and some nationalists and independents backed the move, the government could be in trouble.

Mr Zyuganov did not commit himself to an immediate attack, however, saying only he would like to see Mr Yeltsin stepping down to give fresh politicians a chance in the election.

"It would be better for Boris Yeltsin and the whole country if Boris Yeltsin did not put himself forward for another term at the presidential election for health reasons," he said.



Yeltsin: Faces vote of no confidence

Asked how the operation to free the hostages would affect Mr Yeltsin's election chances, the Communist leader said: "I think nothing can boost his chances because his policies have become completely bankrupt and collapsed."

Mr Yeltsin, who has only just returned to work after recovering from his second heart attack, has said he will announce next month whether he intends to stand.

In response to the Communist victory in December's parliamentary elections, he reshuffled the cabinet, dropping liberals, to make the government team less vulnerable to headline criticism. Last night Mr Yeltsin accepted the resignation of the liberal First Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Chubais, which could mean a

slowing down of the economic reforms he oversaw.

Mr Chubais, in remarks carried by Russian news agencies, said he felt Mr Yeltsin was unhappy with his work, and hoped that that situation was not prompted by "concessions to the Communists". His resignation will ring alarm bells with western investors.

More government heads may roll over the débâcle in Pervomayskoye. But first the Russian army must complete the rescue operation it launched on Monday. Underestimating the Chechen rebels, Mr Yeltsin promised the storming would be over with minimum bloodshed the same day. But yesterday, with only 26 of the estimated 100 hostages released safely, crack troops had still to overcome the militants, being led by Salman Raduyev, a warlord related by marriage to the Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev.

In what would be more bad news for the Kremlin if it was confirmed, 30 workers at an electricity-generating plant in the Chechen capital of Grozny were feared to have been taken hostage by rebels trying to help their comrades in Pervomayskoye by creating a diversion. But Tass news agency said another possibility was that the workers, who disappeared yesterday morning, had simply walked off the job after a row with the management.

In Pervomayskoye, on the border between Dagestan and Chechnya, the hostages were emerging in dribs and drabs. Some were rescued by Russian forces, others released by the gunmen who said they wanted them to tell the world the "truth" about how they had been treated.

The fate of the remaining hostages remains unknown. According to the Russian Interior Ministry, four federal soldiers have lost their lives while 60 rebels have been killed.



Into safety: Two women hostages pass Russian troops after being rescued from Chechen rebels at Pervomayskoye yesterday. Photograph: AP

## Spin doctor tangled in own yarn

PHIL REEVES  
near Pervomayskoye

One glance at the stocky and slightly bow-legged frame of Alexander Mikhailov as he strides around in his khaki fatigues is evidence enough that he is no Tim Bell.

But the chief spin doctor for the successor to the KGB is as deft of tongue as any of his Western counterparts. In the last 48 hours, Major General Mikhailov has been engaged in what may be his toughest assignment to date, disseminating information for the Federal Security Services, the agency leading the assault on the village of

Pervomayskoye in the Russian republic of Dagestan.

If you want to know how the army is getting on as it tries to wipe out 150 Chechen rebels by blasting a village with ground-to-air missiles and huge artillery shells - despite the presence of scores of men, women and children hostages - then he is your man.

Every few hours his burly figure, capped by a black woolly hat, can be seen at the heart of a knot of journalists in Soviet-style, the nearby village where the international press is holed up. He has been as busy as ever at his spinning wheel.

When the onslaught began

the Russians expected to take the village - a scattering of only 250 mud and brick buildings on a dead flat landscape - within a day. As the Chechens battled on, the general began to choose his words carefully. The village (population 1,200) was, in fact, a *gorod* - the Russian word for city.

He is unusually comradely, given his somewhat sinister role, but he also has an icy edge. Asked yesterday what Russia now planned, he rolled his gum in his jaw and shot back: "We will annihilate the bandits." Awkward questions are met with a hostile blue-eyed stare. Of these there is no shortage.

He has yet to explain the mystery surrounding his claim on Monday as the battle began that the Chechens had strung up two Ministry of the Interior (Omon) police in the village centre.

Yesterday he backtracked. All the 37 Omon hostages were safe and well, he said. The two men whose bodies were hung up may already have been dead - a claim which suggests that the Russians now concede that they may not have been expressly killed as an act of provocation, but died in an earlier skirmish. This removed one of the main explanations for the brutal Russian assault.

Yesterday General Mikhailov, 45, had a new story to tell. The Chechens had been firing at buildings containing their hostages and even set some structures alight.

We may never know if he is telling the truth. He would be a lot easier to believe if he had not a questionable track record in the first few hours of the battle. Drawing a leaf from the book of his KGB predecessors, he *flatly denied* that a Russian tank was destroyed by the Chechens. He also rebutted suggestions that the village school had been shelled. Yet we, the journalists witnessing this charade, saw both events with our own eyes.

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## Military coup in Sierra Leone

CHRISTO JOHNSON  
Reuters

Freetown - Captain Valentine Strasser, Sierra Leone's head of state was overthrown yesterday and replaced by his deputy and armed forces chief, Captain Julius Maada Bio.

Sierra Leone, a former British colony, is the world's poorest country, regularly appearing at the bottom of the United Nations annual World Development Index.

State radio said Captain Strasser had been removed because he attempted to force his National Provisional Ruling Council to pass decrees enabling him to stay in power.

Informed diplomats have said in the past it was Captain Bio rather than Captain Strasser who appeared anxious to remain in power. Captain Strasser last weekend declined an invitation to stand as a candidate for the National Unity Party. He had insisted elections should go ahead next month to return the country to civilian rule, despite continued fighting with rebels.

The new leadership declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew and said all ministers should report to defence headquarters for consultations. The announcement was made on state radio by the country's director of defence information, Lieutenant Colonel Karifa Kargbo.

The announcement said the new leadership would be holding talks with the national electoral commission and traditional chiefs about the elections. It said Captain Strasser had left the country and the new chairman would address the nation soon.

"Any soldiers except those under special military command are instructed to keep off the street," the announcement said.

A Freetown resident said there were troops on the capital's streets but the city was calm. Captain Strasser, 29, took power in a coup in April 1992, overthrowing the civilian government of Joseph Momoh and promising to end the rebel war.

The fighting has wrecked the country's mining-based economy and driven more than a third of the country's 4 million people from their homes.

## IN BRIEF

## French troops secure Sarajevo utilities

Sarajevo - A secret operation by French peace-keeping troops secured key gas, water and electricity plants in Sarajevo as a precaution against sabotage during the Muslim-led government's takeover of Serb districts. A French Nato spokesman, Major Hervé Gourmelon, said that the operation had been carried out early yesterday morning "to prevent desperate measures by certain [Serb] elements".

## US halts arrest of Mexican drug baron

Washington - The White House said that the arrest by Mexico of the drug kingpin Juan Garcia Abrego was a "major coup". The 51-year-old dual citizen of the United States and Mexico, who is accused of running a \$2bn (£1.3bn) a year drug empire from his base in northern Mexico, was caught on Sunday and flown to Houston the next day to face drug charges that could lead to life in prison.

## Bahrain risks arresting turbulent cleric

Manama - Bahraini police detained Sheikh Abdul Ameer al-Jamri, a leading Shia Muslim opposition cleric, a move that could heighten political tension in this small central Gulf island state. Last weekend the authorities summoned Sheikh Jamri and seven associates and warned them against inciting demonstrations during religious sermons.

## Liberian militia defies peace-keepers

Monrovia - Ulimo-J, the militia force at the centre of the latest fighting in Liberia, said it would not hand over its weapons to African peace-keepers under a plan to end six years of civil war in the country.

## Baroness denies being anti-Muslim

Khartoum - Sudan said it had blocked a visit by Baroness Cox, a senior Tory life peer, because of her "outrageous hostility" towards the Muslim fundamentalist government, but she denied she had applied for a visa to visit Sudan and said she was "not in any way anti-Muslim or anti-Islam".

## Bear necessities

Toulouse - Archaeologists believe a burnt fragment of a bear's leg bone found in a cave in south-western France was cooked by cave-dwellers 50,000 years ago, making it the earliest evidence anywhere of cave-dwelling humans.

## Limo for the lama

Peking - Gyincain Norbu, the six-year-old backed by the Chinese government as Tibet's new Panchen Lama, has been presented with a Red Flag limousine donated by the state-owned No. 1 Automobile Corporation.

## Saddam set to take up UN oil offer

New York (AP) - Iraq told ambassadors from non-aligned countries yesterday that it is ready to negotiate a UN plan to allow limited oil sales to buy humanitarian supplies.

Diplomats said the offer was relayed by Iraq's UN ambassador, Nizar Hamdon, to envoys from Botswana, Chile, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau and Honduras, all current members of the Security Council. The offer was to negotiate with the UN Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The Security Council imposed sweeping sanctions against Iraq in 1990 after its invasion of Kuwait. The council has refused to lift them until it is satisfied Iraq has complied with UN demands to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction.

The sanctions prevent Iraq from exporting oil, and the country's 20 million people face

skyrocketing inflation and widespread shortages. The UN has offered to let Iraq sell \$4bn (£2.5bn) of oil a year to pay for food and medicine. Iraq rejects the offer, saying attached conditions violate its sovereignty.

Word of the reported offer surfaced on the fifth anniversary of the Gulf War which has revived debate on the trade embargo. Key members of the Security Council agreed in principle on Monday to dispatch a fact-finding group to Baghdad.

France, Russia and China - three of the permanent members of the 15-member Security Council - have been sympathetic to Iraqi calls to ease sanctions. But the US and Britain, the other two permanent members, say no - at least until Iraq meets all UN ceasefire terms, including revealing all information on its weapons of mass destruction.

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# Relief as race to succeed Papandreou starts

ANDREW GUMBEL

Greece's ruling party geared up yesterday for a lightning campaign to elect a new prime minister by the end of the week, following the long-awaited resignation of Andreas Papandreou from his bed in an intensive care unit in an Athens hospital.

The leading anti-Papandreou dissident in the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), the former industry minister Costas Simitis, and the man likely to be his chief rival, the Defence Minister Gerasimos Arsenis, both formally announced their candidature for a race which must take place within three days. A former defence minister, Yannis Charalambopoulos, also joined the list.

The party's executive committee will meet today to thrash out the exact timing and the rules for the contest.

The news that Mr Papandreou had bowed to the inevitable and agreed to step down was greeted with relief in political and business circles. The country has all but ground to a halt since mid-November, when the 76-year-old premier, already ailing, was first admitted to hospital with lung and kidney failure.

Pasok officials looked anxious to get the succession race out of the way as quickly as possible to avoid splits within the party. The Athens stock market index, meanwhile, jumped up two percentage points on the day.

For a long time, no one had



The contenders: (from left) Gerasimos Arsenis, anti-Papandreou dissident Costas Simitis, and Akis Tsochadzopoulos, who could become number two in Pasok

dared believe that Mr Papandreou would ever relinquish his hold on the government and on the socialist movement which he founded following the collapse of the colonels' jun-

ta in 1974. Although he was barely able to move or speak, suggestions that his career was over were at first considered taboo. But as the prospects for his recovery waned, and

Greece's international credibility was increasingly compromised, the party finally plucked up the courage to present Mr Papandreou with the hard truth of the situation.

Originally, it seemed that President Costas Stephanopoulos would see Mr Papandreou in his room at the Onassis Clinic. But on Monday afternoon, a group of senior ministers, accompanied by two of Mr Papandreou's children and his controversial but devoted young wife Dimitra, obtained his signature to a short statement.

The word "resignation" did not feature, but Mr Papandreou made clear he did not want his declining health to hold the whole country hostage and urged Pasok to pick a successor quickly. According to some reports, he reflected long and hard before signing.

Whoever succeeds him will be unable to wield his unique and autocratic powers, if only be-

cause there was no mention in the letter of Mr Papandreou's other job as leader of Pasok. According to party sources, he will stay on as president, at least in name, and a separate election will be held in due course to appoint a deputy.

Mr Simitis, a 59-year-old commercial lawyer educated in Germany and at the London School of Economics, is the most likely candidate to win the premiership because he stands the best chance of leading Pasok to victory in the next general elections.

Not only does he have a reputation as an intelligent reformer, but as a relatively centrist member of Pasok he stands the best chance of winning voters away from the con-

servative opposition party, New Democracy.

His status as a dissident within Pasok may not harm him if it is understood that a Papandreou loyalist, such as the Interior Minister, Akis Tsochadzopoulos, would become the party number two. Mr Tsochadzopoulos is likely to put himself forward for the premiership too, as is the parliamentary speaker, Apostolos Katakoulas.

Since Pasok has never had to hold a leadership election of any kind before, the executive committee will have to decide how many ballots to hold. The most rational solution would be a runoff second round between the two front-runners, but rivalries within the party could drag the process out for longer.

## Weizman outburst stuns Germany

IMRE KARACS

Bonn — The President of Israel lashed out at Germany's past crimes against the Jews yesterday, souring a state visit that Bonn had hoped would open a new chapter in relations between the two countries.

"It is not easy for me to be in this land and listen to the memories and the voices screaming to me from the earth," Ezer Weizman told stunned MPs. "As President of the state of Israel, I can grieve for them and commemorate them, but I cannot forgive in their name."

Mr Weizman was addressing a joint session of the two chambers of parliament, the first visiting head of state to be accorded that rare honour since German reunification and only the fourth since the war. But he appeared to be in no mood to pull his punches, reminding Germans of the way that "the Nazis and their helpers murdered a large part of us".

"I can only urge you, ladies and gentlemen, to look to the future with a knowledge of the past," the Israeli President said. "That you recognise every stirring of racism and

smash every stirring of neo-Nazism."

Although Mr Weizman did at one point address the MPs as "friends", his speech made it clear that he harboured little friendly sentiment towards the country responsible for the murder of 6 million Jews. That much he had already made clear just before his departure from Israel on Sunday, when he seemed to criticise Jews who have settled in Germany.

"I, for example, cannot understand how 40,000 Jews can live in Germany," Mr Weizman told Israeli radio.

His gaffe brought furious reactions from German Jews, who rushed to the aid of their adopted country. "I have lived here since 1945 and have met two oew generations who simply do not identify with the Nazis," said Ignatz Bubis, the leader of the Jewish community in Germany. "This is a new Germany and it is different from Nazi Germany."

Mr Weizman tried to make amends by visiting both the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where thousands of Jews died, and Plötzensee prison, where German resistance fighters were held and executed.

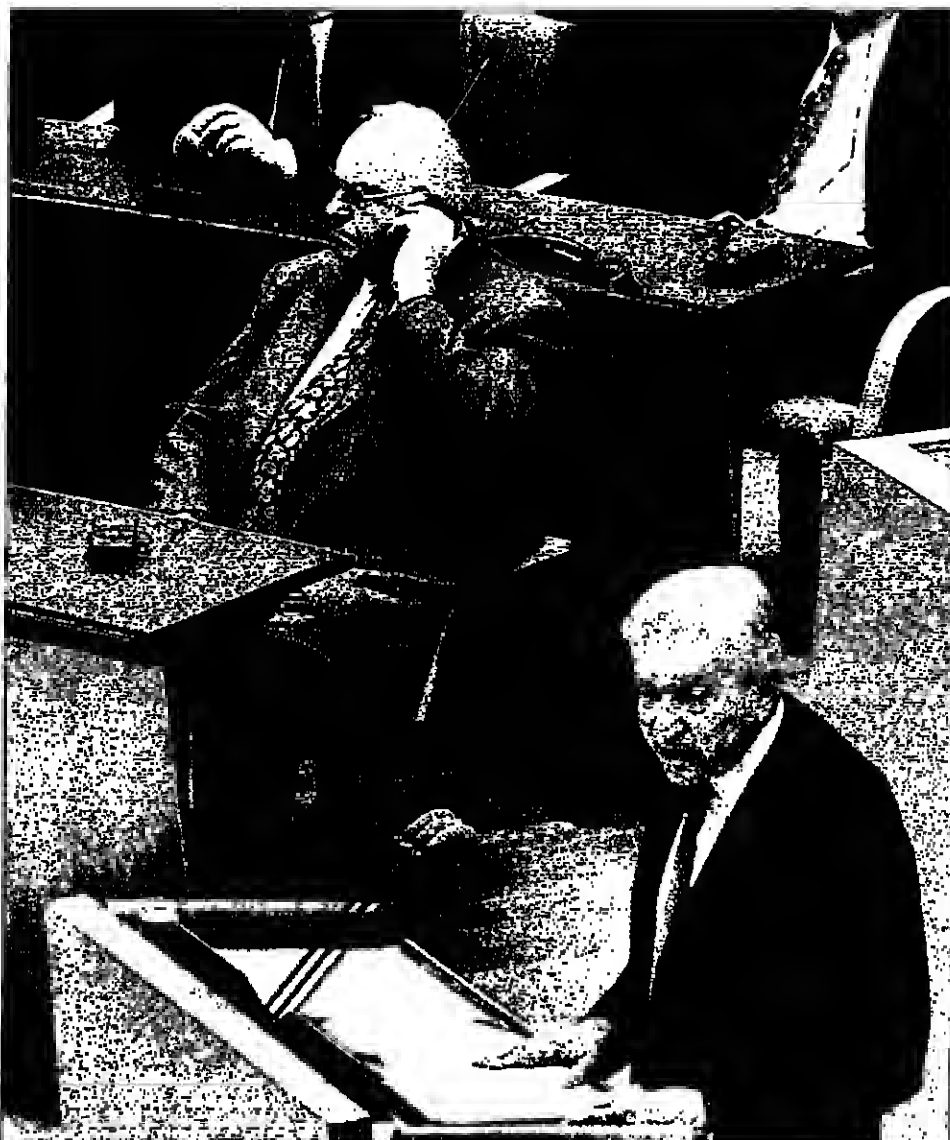
But despite rolling out the red carpet, the German govern-

ment also missed a chance to encourage a mood of forgiveness. As the Israeli President landed in Berlin, 35,000 Jews living in Israel and the US were still waiting for the first instalment of the war compensation first mooted in 1989.

The pensions to Jews from Latvia and Romania who had so far received no money from Bonn, are delayed as MPs on the government side argue about which part of the state budget ought to pay them. The government promises that the bureaucratic wrangle, described by a leading opposition politician as a "foreign policy idiosyncrasy", will be resolved within the next two weeks, too late for Mr Weizman's visit.

In a final blow to this journey of reconciliation, the Israeli President cancelled at short notice a visit to Bonn's Museum of History. Although the exhibition is brutally frank about the Second World War, some foreign visitors have been put off by its triumphant portrayal of Germany's rise from the ashes.

Mr Weizman claims his programme was too crowded. A more likely explanation is that 50 years after the war there are still a few things about Germany that Jews find hard to accept.



Bitter words: President Weizman addressing the German parliament in Hebrew while Chancellor Kohl uses an earphone to listen to the speech

## Berlusconi tax trial opens

ANDREW GUMBEL

Rome — Silvio Berlusconi is a man well used to creating media circus, but he may have doubts about the one that awaits him in Milan's Palace of Justice this morning. Before a barrage of television cameras, only some working for his Fininvest media empire, the former prime minister will attend the opening session of a trial in which he will be accused of bribing tax inspectors in exchange for a lenient audit of his businesses.

It will be a symbolic moment in these turbulent times. Not only is this the case that precipitated the collapse of Mr Berlusconi's coalition and forced him to resign 13 months ago, it is also the most glaring of several recent indications that the magnate-turned-politician is sliding down the slippery pole of Italian public life.

Mr Berlusconi is accused, along with his brother Paolo and nine others, of paying around 380 million lire to officers of the finance police. By Italian standards this would be a minor misdemeanour, even if the defendants were proven guilty — most of the Milan fashion world is currently on trial for exactly the same thing.

But the case interferes awkwardly with the political

timetable, which might require Mr Berlusconi any moment now to shuttle between the Milan court — which will meet once a week or so for the next few months — and the campaign trail in the run-up to a general election. Already there are signs that Mr Berlusconi is being outmanoeuvred in his conservative coalition by the far-right leader Gianfranco Fini.

It could also give a wide public airing to more embarrassing charges against Mr Berlusconi that are yet to come to court — notably the allegation that he paid massive kickbacks to his former political mentor and friend, the disgraced Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi. The trial could be bad for business, too, as Mr Berlusconi considers floating a large chunk of his media and advertising assets on the open market to raise capital to plug his gaping debts.

Mr Berlusconi and his friends have already launched a full-frontal attack on his chief accuser, the former magistrate Antonio Di Pietro who, was the star of Italy's anti-corruption drive three years ago. The Berlusconi family newspaper, *Il Giornale* of Milan, has produced allegation after allegation that Mr Di Pietro used his judicial status as a platform for political revolution.

## No room for quiche in Kohl cuisine

Bonn — "We have travelled through nine regions, collecting recipes, and you can see the result here in front of you," said Hannelore Kohl, as she pointed at the cookery book she has written with her husband, Helmut. Alas, the hungry paparazzi instinctively turned towards the corpulent figure of the German Chancellor, writes Imre Karacs.

"How much do you weigh?" he was asked. "That's a state secret," Mr Kohl replied tersely. In fact, the *Independent* can reveal after exhaustive investigation that the Chancellor weighed in for last year's general elections at 125 kilos, just under 20 stones.

Since then, however, Mr Kohl may have put on a pound or two, eating his way through the regions in a gargantuan effort to catalogue the best of German cuisine. The result is *A Culinary Journey through the German Countryside*, a fat tome containing more than 300 recipes. It is not for the quiche brigade. From Altesseur, made with peas and a lot of cream and butter, to Zwiebelsuppe, which relies on yet more butter and cheese for consistency, almost every page could have been sponsored by a society of heart

surgeons. There are a few recipes leaning towards nouvelle cuisine, but one suspects those were the ones Mr Kohl admitted to not liking very much.

The Chancellor is more of a greasy Wurst man. His favourite dishes are Sauermagen, fried potatoes and pasta, all consumed in copious quantities and washed down with spritzer. He is also a man of tradition as well as substance, with a mission to tell the world about the sort of food his mother used to cook.

Through the book, whose profits will go to a charity chaired by Hannelore, the Kohls hope to demonstrate that there is more to the national culture than punctuality and thoroughness.

Germans love their food more than foreigners realise, and the dishes are better than they are given credit for, the Chancellor said.

The book launch, at a hotel renowned for its inflated prices and deflated soufflés, provided a few samples of the couple's work. Apart from the minor detail that the dishes came from what used to be known as Austria-Hungary, and not Germany, the fare was not exactly mouth-

### Helmut's home cooking

#### PALATINE SAUMAGEN (PIG'S STOMACH)

Ingredients (for 3 1/2 to 4 kg)

- 1 pig's stomach (to be ordered in advance at your butcher's)
- 30 g clarified butter
- 1/2 kg pork
- 1 1/2 kg potatoes
- 1 1/2 kg minced meat
- 2-3 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp onion
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp thyme
- 1/2 tsp ground cardamom
- 1/2 tsp basil
- 1 ground bayleaf
- 50 g onions (diced)

1. Cut the pork into fairly large cubes. Peel the potatoes and dice them. Mix the pork, the potatoes and the minced meat and add the spices.
2. Rinse the stomach thoroughly. Tie up two of the stomach's openings with thread, and put the filling in through the third hole. Tie up this as well. (Do not overfill or it will burst.)
3. Put the pig's stomach into recently boiled water and simmer for three hours then drain it.
4. Fry the stomach in clarified butter and bake in pre-heated oven at 200 Celsius (400 Fahrenheit). Serve with fresh bread, Palatine potatoes, sauerkraut and wine of the Palatinate.

Cook's tip (by Hannelore Kohl): "Should there be any leftovers, the stomach can be cut into slices and fried to a golden brown the following day."

watering. The Tafelspitz — slices of pork embedded in a bed of finely-cut vegetables and jelly — was passable. The pork goulash

which followed was awful: tasteless and runny. Perhaps lovers of German culture should stick to Wagner after all.

## Mitterrand's cancer kept secret

MARY DEJEVSKY

Pans — François Mitterrand was diagnosed as suffering from incurable bone cancer only six months after taking office in 1981 and was judged "incapable of exercising his functions" as head of state half a year before he left office, according to his long-time personal physician, Claude Gubler.

Dr Gubler's revelations, along with two "snatched" photographs of Mitterrand laid out on his death bed, were published in a special edition of *Paris Match* yesterday and shocked many French people, provoking a ferocious debate about personal privacy, medical ethics and the question of honesty and openness in politics. They also threatened to tarnish irrevocably the reputation of the former president, who authorised publication of regular reports on his health but declared

the crucial information — about his cancer — a "state secret".

The cover of *Paris Match* broke another taboo by showing Mitterrand's widow, Danielle, comforting his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine, at the graveside.

Initially, it was the photographs of Mitterrand on his deathbed — laid out in dark suit and striped tie, hands peacefully folded — that shocked; less because they went beyond the bounds of good taste than because they had been taken at all. Only family and personal friends of Mitterrand were allowed access to the room where he died, yet one of those had recorded the scene and passed the photographs to *Paris Match*.

There was an immediate protest from the family — signed by Danielle, his two sons, and Mazarine (signing herself for the first time as a Mitterrand) and his mistress and Mazarine's mother, Anne Plingeot. The

magazine defended its decision to publish in an editorial which described the pictures as "having impressed with their beauty, strength and gravitas".

The French media generally show a respect for personal privacy, even of the most public figures, that would be unthinkable in Britain. It was this same respect for privacy, which was gradually being declining, that allowed the existence of Mitterrand's mistress and his daughter to be hidden from the French public — though not from Paris political circles — for almost 20 years.

But it was the revelations of Dr Gubler, Mitterrand's personal physician until 1994, that caused the louder outcry. Politicians lined up to condemn the "breach of medical confidentiality" and deny that Mitterrand was in any way incapable of exercising power, even in the last months of his presidency.

Dr Gubler's account, how-

ever, poses a central question about the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship and the voters' right to know. According to the doctor, he diagnosed the President's illness in October 1981 — and it was confirmed by a second specialist a month later. On being told that he probably had only three years to live, Mitterrand — who had achieved his life's ambition of becoming president only six months before — is said to have murmured in response: "Then I'm done for."

Mitterrand's second instinct, as a politician, was to declare the subject a state secret, a secret which Dr Gubler says he kept faithfully for 14 years and was finally released from by Mitterrand himself. The first French public knew of any cancer was in 1992, when he was first operated on. The statement issued then referred to cancer of the prostate, but not to the fact that it had already spread.

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**Wales**  
Bryn Derwen Hotel  
Abbey Road, Llangollen  
Chwy, LL20 8ET  
01578 850583 £85.00  
Jan-May

**Wales**  
The Riverside Hotel  
Ondreford Street, Monmouth,  
Gwent, NP5 3EY  
01600 715577 £69.00  
Jan-May

**Wales**  
This highly commended hotel in The  
Vale of Glamorgan offers a taste of Wales in its  
restaurant.

**Wales**  
The White Horse Hotel  
12-16 Dean Street, Newcastle Upon  
Tyne,  
Tyne And Wear, NE1 1PG  
0191 261 7771 £69.50  
Jan-May

**Lincolnshire**  
Garden House Hotel  
St Marston, Stamford  
Lincolnshire, PE9 2LP  
01780 63359 £79.50  
Jan-May

**Yorkshire**  
The White Horse Farm Hotel  
Rosedale Abbey, Nr Polesworth  
North Yorkshire, YO18 8SE  
01751 417239 £88.00  
Jan-May

**Scotland**  
Kings Arms Hotel  
High Street, Lockerbie,  
Dumfriesshire, DG11 1JL  
01578 202410 £50.00  
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**Scotland**  
This 18th-century coaching inn, which  
has log fires in winter, has an à la carte  
restaurant with interesting special  
features.

**Wales**  
New Chequers Hotel  
Northop Hall Village  
Mold, Cheshire, CH7 6HU  
01244 816181 £80.00  
Jan-May

**Lancashire**  
Parkwater Hotel  
Fairhaven Road,  
St Ann's On Sea,  
Lancashire, FY9 3JN  
01253 725106 £57.00  
Jan-May

**Scotland**  
Lauderdale Hotel  
1 Edinburgh Road, Lauder,  
Berwickshire, TD12 6TU  
01573 722231 £52.00  
Jan-May

**Scotland**  
Newtown House Hotel  
Glencairn, Nr Perth,  
Perthshire, PH2 7LX  
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**Scotland**  
Hensbrook Hotel  
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Dorset, DT7 3HL  
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Jan-May

**Scotland**  
Galloway Arms Hotel  
Dumfries, Dumfries,  
DG2 8RA  
01566 690248 £60.00  
Jan-May

**Scotland**  
The Shafesbury Hotel  
1 Hyndford Street,  
Dundee, Tayside, DD2 1HQ  
01382 669216 £76.00  
Jan-May

**Scotland**  
Blairholm Hotel  
62 Renfrew Road, Paisley,  
North Ayrshire, PA3 4RD  
0141 889 5577 £70.00  
Jan-May

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# Mrs Dole replaces Hillary in spotlight

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

As Hillary Clinton ponders whether to submit to a Senate grilling to try to rid herself of the Whitewater affair, oddly similar allegations of financial favouritism and cronyism are being raised against the woman who could replace her as First Lady if the Republicans win the White House in November.

In substance if not style, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, wife of

Senator Bob Dole, the only woman to have held different Cabinet posts in separate administrations, is as redoubtable a figure as Mrs Clinton. Currently head of the American Red Cross, she vows to continue in the job if her husband is elected. If so, she becomes what even Mrs Clinton has not dared to be: the first First Lady to have combined that job with an outside career. But like Mrs Clinton, she could be dogged by business dealings from the past.

The controversy revolves around David Owen, for 20 years one of Senator Dole's closest political operatives in Kansas before he was convicted of tax fraud. For much of that period he managed Mrs Dole's assets, which had been placed in a blind trust while she served in government.

According to the *New Yorker*, Mrs Dole may have been given special treatment on several occasions. They involve the recovery with interest of a

\$250,000 (£160,000) loan to an Owen company whose failure cost other investors dear, the purchase by the trust of shares in an insurance company which benefited from 1986 tax laws of which Senator Dole was a prime instigator, and a real estate deal involving a company that had been awarded a lucrative affirmative-action contract thanks to the Senator.

The Owen case briefly swirled during Mr Dole's last bid for the presidency in 1988.

But it disappeared after his decisive defeat by George Bush in the New Hampshire primary that year. This time Mr Dole is a strong favourite, and is perhaps more vulnerable to allegations of influence-peddling and conflict of interest, which echo those against the Clintons in Arkansas in the 1980s.

The charges are denied by Mrs Dole. But Mr Owen, recently freed after serving a 12-month jail term, tells the *New Yorker* that he was "fed to the

wolves" by Senator Dole during the 1988 campaign. He was a "political victim", whose life had been "ruined by politics".

The words could have been uttered by Jim McDougal, the Clintons' partner in the Whitewater land venture and owner of the failed Madison Guaranty Bank who is under indictment in Arkansas, insisting that he did nothing wrong.

Mr McDougal's protestations have only fuelled the Republicans' pursuit of Mrs Clinton.

Yesterday, the Senate White-water committee began a new round of hearings, while the First Lady made her clearest offer so far to testify in person, if it would clear her name.

"I will do whatever it takes to co-operate," Mrs Clinton said, at the launch of her book on children's welfare, *It Takes A Village*, although it would be "a bit like having your teeth drilled" if she does undergo the ordeal. Mrs Dole may be an unexpectedly sympathetic spectator.

## Woman's plea to die is rejected

JOHN CARLIN  
Washington

Guinevere Garcia's hopes of death by the executioner's needle were dashed by the Governor of Illinois yesterday when he commuted her sentence to life imprisonment.

Governor Jim Edgar exercised his legal prerogative to overturn a decision taken by the Illinois judiciary, and later by Garcia herself, less than 24 hours before the death sentence — for murder — was scheduled to be carried out.

The pardon was a victory for Amnesty International and other human rights groups which have been battling to deprive Garcia, a lifelong victim of atrocious sexual abuse and battery, of her wish to die. At a Prison Review Board hearing last Thursday Garcia, who murdered her husband in 1991, said in a statement tape-recorded in her prison cell that those who were petitioning for clemency on her behalf should stop interfering.

"Stay out of my case. Stay out of my life," she said. "I committed this crime... I am competent to waive my right to appeal."

In making his decision yesterday, Mr Edgar said: "It is not the state's responsibility to carry out the wishes of a defendant."

"Guinevere Garcia should never be free again," the governor said in a statement, "but I have concluded that the punishment decreed for her was not typical."

The extenuating circumstances in Garcia's life which the governor identified but the courts failed to detect included: her mother's suicide when she was 18 months old; rape by an uncle between the ages of 6 and 11; gang-rape at the hands of five teenage boys when she was 14; going into prostitution when she was 15; and a vision of life as so desperate and cruel that when she was 17 she suffocated her newborn baby girl in what she saw as an act of mercy. After 10 years in jail for the child's murder she married George Garcia, who perpetrated a pattern of brutal abuse against her until she shot him.

Earthquake anniversary: Lack of vision and the might of big business have thwarted attempts to build a city for the people

## Ugly phoenix rises from Kobe's ashes

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
Kobe

"By the summer, after the dust had settled," says Hiroaki Kimura, the architect, "some of us began to think that, after all the suffering, this was an opportunity to create something really new and special. People made drawings and models and presented them to the city. No interest. Frustration. This was a great chance, and we lost it."

People in Mr Kimura's profession learned a lot from the Kobe earthquake. One year ago this morning, but the starkest lesson of all was that nobody pays much attention to architects. The practical lessons of the 6,300 deaths — 85 per cent of them from collapsing buildings and the fires that tore through them — will never be forgotten.

The traditional wooden Japanese houses, for instance, with heavy tiled roofs which rushed and then trapped their inhabitants, have become unthinkable since 17 January 1995, as designers concentrate on light, flexible structures with assemblies which, as the engineering post-mortems show, were surprisingly effective at absorbing shock.

But the imaginative visions of the architects were ignored. Even the designs of an inter-

nationally famous name like Isao Ando cut no ice with the city engineers, whose "Phoenix Plan" to reconstruct the 215,000 buildings rendered uninhabitable by the quake, plays depressingly safe. "Just more high-rises," says Mr Hiroaki. "No vision, or idea of the future, just the same old thing."

There are persuasive arguments for caution in rebuilding Kobe, the strongest of which is lack of money. Total damage from the quake totals \$99bn (£64bn); after subsidies from central government, the city is still hovering dangerously close to insolvency. Even with architects such as Mr Hiroaki offering their services free, few people were in the mood for the dreams of fancy architects.

But recent months have seen a growing view that there is more to post-quake Kobe than lack of imagination. Critics of the local government see a conspiracy theory — to recreate the city in the image desired by bureaucrats and big business.

Since the mid-1960s the city has gained a reputation as Kobe Inc, aggressively drawing in investment with a series of bold restructuring plans that have all but wiped out the old 19th-century port. A famous scheme to "move the mountain to the sea" came to a triumphant conclusion



Home sweet home: A family standing in front of their newly rebuilt house in Kobe this week

Photograph: Katsumi Kasahara/AP

with the completion of Port Island — a purpose-built city, constructed on millions of tons of rock ferried out into the bay. The only space left for new development was the old residential neighbourhoods in Kobe

itself. "There is no doubt that the city has capitalised on the disaster to achieve what it had not been able to do before because of stiff resistance," said this week's *Asahi Evening News*. "City officials simply dug out the

old blueprints, dusted them off and made some modifications to add the big high-rises."

Japan's construction industry is notorious for its close relationship with politicians and bureaucrats on one side and, on

the other, the crime syndicates who mobilise its workers. The contracts being handed out by the local government represent the juiciest political honey pot since the post-war reconstruction. "The new Kobe,"

says Hiroaki Kimura, "will be a city built by men looking at maps on tables, and men in helicopters looking from the sky. You can't design a happy city like that; you've got to start on the ground, where the life is."

## Indian MPs face graft trial

IM MCGIRK  
New Delhi

even senior Indian opposition politicians were charged with corruption yesterday for allegedly taking pay-offs from a money-changing racket. Investigators also want to prosecute three cabinet ministers and have asked the President, Shankar Dayal Sharma, to give them immunity.

With a general election due in April, the scandal has caused a sensation. Among those implicated are leading rivals of the Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao, both within his Congress party and in the opposition. They include Lal Krishna Advani, leader of the main opposition group, the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP). Devi Lal, an ex-deputy prime minister in the left-wing former Janata Dal government, and Arjun Singh, who recently broke away from the Congress party after quarrelling with Mr Rao. The ministers whose prosecution is sought are viewed within Congress as Mr Rao's possible challengers.

They are Madhav Rao Scindia, the Human Resources Minister, Bajrang Lal Jaiswal, Agriculture Minister, and VC Shukla, Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Mr Scindia dismissed the allegations as "a contemptible attempt to tarnish the reputation of an honest man". Detectives said up to 18 other politicians and senior bureaucrats could be charged.

Mr Advani yesterday resigned from his parliamentary

seat to fight the accusations. He accused the Prime Minister of levelling the charges to sabotage the BJP's chances in the election. Polls indicate that the BJP could deny Congress its majority. "Mr Rao is trying to scuttle the BJP's proposal to make corruption an issue in the elections," he said.

The politicians are accused of taking bribes from a family of powerful industrialists, the Jains, who allegedly operated a money-changing racket before India's 1992 economic reforms made the system obsolete.

The industrialists were charged in 1992 with laundering undeclared "black" money into foreign currency for hefty commissions, paying politicians and bureaucrats to look away. In raids on the Jains, inves-

tigators found a diary with details of pay-offs amounting to more than \$11.5m allegedly made between 1988 and 1991 to the country's top politicians and bureaucrats. But the diary did not give the culprits' names, only their initials.

If convicted, the politicians face up to five years' jail, police investigators said. Left-wing and opposition parties are demanding the resignation of all three ministers named by police.

Although the investigation into the money-changing racket has dragged on for years, political observers in New Delhi said it was likely that the Prime Minister had manipulated the timing of the charges against his rivals in order to dash their hopes of unseating him in the April election.

## How to become a proofreader

by Trevor Horwood

Do you envy people who love their jobs? I did too, so a few years ago I looked for a way to combine my love of books with the need to earn a living. I was a successful sales manager, so I needed something that would

discovered that every year thousands of new titles are proofread and copy-edited by freelance workers from home throughout the country. I also discovered that neither a qualification in publishing nor a publishing background was necessary to become a freelance.

Today I earn over £20,000 a year as a freelance proofreader and copy-editor, and I love every minute of it. My only problem now is deciding which assignments to accept since I am regularly offered more work than I can cope with.

ounds simple, doesn't it? Well, wasn't I! I had to do a lot of research on the way. Identifying potential sources of publishing work, discovering the language of publishing, and the best way to proceed... and, hardest of all, how to break into the world of freelancing. Now you can learn from my experience (and my mistakes) in a new publication: *Freelance Proofreading and Copy-editing*. This manual provides a clear and concise overview of the

publishing industry and the freelance's role in it, together with a series of fault-finding exercises with precise answers and explanations that provide all you need to complete straightforward proofreading assignments.

A list of 101 potential clients and their addresses is also included, and my step-by-step advice will enable you to approach them with confidence and maximize your chances of success.

With this manual as your guide, you too can enjoy a gratifying and rewarding freelance career in publishing. Proofreading is particularly rewarding, as is copy-editing. What's more, you will save time and money by avoiding the mistakes made by most beginners — myself included, at the time.

To order your copy of *Freelance Proofreading and Copy-editing*, send your name, address, book title and your payment (cheque or Visa/Access with exp. date) of £15 inclusive of postage and handling to: Carnell plc, Dept CE23, Alresford, Hants, RG24 0AP or telephone their 24 hour hotline on 01206 825600 (quote Dept. code), allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the manual anytime within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.

## China puts the blinkers on news

TERESA POOLE  
Peking

China yesterday said it was taking control of the dissemination of all foreign economic news within the country. The regulations appear to permit it to censor and delay such news and allow it to punish providers of foreign economic information who release information which "slanders or jeopardises the national interests of China".

The State Council circular also makes the official Xinhua news agency the all-powerful regulator in an increasingly profitable business sector. The new rules give Xinhua authority to set subscription rates, and presumably to take its slice of revenues. It already controls dissemination of news agency wire services within China, for instance from Reuters and Associated Press, and keeps half the revenue earned from domestic customers.

By targeting economic news, it is taking control of a potentially much more profitable business. The main foreign companies now providing economic information within China are Reuters, AP-Dow Jones, Telerate, and Bloomberg.

"The purpose of making the move is to safeguard the state sovereignty, protect the legal

rights and interests of the Chinese economic information users and promote the healthy development of the country's undertaking of economic information," the State Council said.

All Chinese organisations and departments will be forbidden to purchase economic information directly from foreign wire services and will instead have to buy it through Xinhua. Economic information, which can have a direct effect on China's fledgling financial markets, is often considered by the government to be even more sensitive than foreign news reporting about China.

Reuters said the rules could have "serious editorial implications". Xinhua will supervise the sale of economic information provided by foreign news services; news providers will have to register and be approved by Xinhua and China will "examine and approve" the "varieties of their economic information".

The order also allows Xinhua to punish foreign economic news providers "if their released information to Chinese users contains anything forbidden by Chinese laws and regulations, or slanders or jeopardises the national interests of China".

## The UK's Best Multimedia Deals For 1996

The new Multimedia PowerStation 95 system from Time features our best buy high specification configuration from Columbia and Draper which have been awarded the 'Best Buy' award by the Consumer Choice Awards 1995. Most models also include fast fax and data modems, with an internet option. At these special introductory prices, with the finance option from under £44 per month these systems are a great buy.

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**Software**

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## obituaries / gazette

Lord  
McFadzean

Knighthood by Macmillan, ennobled by Wilson, created a Knight of the Thistle by the Queen, William Hunter McFadzean was one of the heavy-weight British businessmen of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

In 1966, Harold Wilson as Prime Minister wanted to give every public sign both of promoting meritocracy, and sending magnanimous gestures to captains of industry and olive branches to the City of London. No one fitted his bill better than the canny Scots lad of parts, William McFadzean. Wilson adored choosing people for the Lords. "Well you see I've created a great Scots nobleman!" he said to Judith Hart and myself one night in the voting lobby. He was pleased as Punch. What he did not add was that his nobleman was also the chairman of the biggest employer in the Hutton constituency, British Insulated Cables, and had been a personal friend on a constituency basis for many years. But it was a peripatetic choice by the Prime Minister. And it was justified.



McFadzean: court

McFadzean was a mixture of formidable businessman of ferocious drive and rasping Scottish accent, and a man of genuine humility with an ability, often found in Scots, to mix easily in England. I knew him as a great encourager of younger people, not least those like me about whose political views he had many qualms.

McFadzean was the son of a travelling instructor in cheesemaking who went from farm to farm in the area of the Solway giving farmers his expertise. Cheesemaking was far from the automatic process it is today. In that area of south-west Scotland the huge amounts of milk produced from wonderful pasture could not be drunk fresh, and in the years before the establishment of creameries it was important that individual farms should be able to make their own cheese and butter. McFadzean's father died in 1918 when William was 14. But he often returned to Garthland and his brother's family.

Encouraged by teachers at Stranraer in the way that Scottish dominions would do their very best for their talented pupils, McFadzean was sent to the High School of Glasgow and on to do accountancy at Glasgow University. He distinguished himself as a hockey player and shined in the Glasgow Western hockey team. Hockey – an unglorious sport in Britain – was to get his support for the rest of his life.

He joined the Glasgow accountants McLay, McAllister and McGibbon, "the three Ms" as they were widely known, in 1922. They gave him five years' rigorous training and entry to the equally rigorous Glasgow accountants Chalmers, Wade & Company. It was at the end of this period that he married Eileen, daughter of Arthur Gordon of Blundells, who was to be his constant support for over 62 years.

His greatest step was in 1932 to leave Glasgow for Liverpool and join British Insulated Cables as their accountant. He rose steadily to become financial secretary in 1937 and executive manager in 1942, playing an important role in British war production. At the end of the war there was an amalgamation between British Insulated Cables and Callender's Cable and Construction Company. McFadzean was appointed to the board as executive director and became deputy chairman in 1947 and chief executive director in 1950. No man played a greater part in building up BICC to be one of Britain's most successful companies and rated on a world-wide basis.

McFadzean's interest in the growing nuclear industry made him a key member, too, of the main board of the National Nuclear Corporation in the 1970s and a deputy chairman of KITZ. By this time he had developed enormous clout. He was a former President of the Federation of British Industries (1959-61). He had been chairman of the European Free Trade Area in the early 1960s and a founder of the Export Council for Europe. About another free trade area, the North Atlantic Free Trade Area and the special relationship with Canada and the United States McFadzean said:

Emotionally this must appeal to us with so many of our kith and kin in these countries and with almost a common language between us but this, too, is not realistic. Certainly from my frequent visits to Canada and the States I cannot find any real desire for such a relationship existing politically or economically. It could only lead gradually to domination, to our being the 51st State. I am all for partnership, but I am fundamentally against domination.

Possibly that was why he was such a determined European. In 30 years' membership of the House of Lords he took five years before making his maiden speech; and it was his only speech. Scarcely ever can one speech have been more weighty. It was on 26 July 1971, in the crucial debate on entry into the European Community. McFadzean ended movingly:

I first came into national life at the time of Messina and I witnessed then the tragedy of Britain not participating in the talks that led up to the Treaty of Rome. I subsequently watched at close quarters the inception and development of the Common Market. Of course it has had, and will continue to have, its problems. But it is an inspiring conception and has achieved much not only economically but in so many other ways as for example the dedication of its people. How many European industrialists... were frightened to death when their country joined it but who today thank God they did? It will in time fulfil, I am confident, all its high objectives.

When I asked one of his colleagues in the Midland Bank, of which he was deputy chairman from 1968 to 1977, what he thought McFadzean's contribution had been he replied laconically, "Vision". McFadzean was a man of judgement who turned out to be right far more often than most in public life.

Tam Dalyell

**William Hunter McFadzean, businessman: born Stranraer, Wigtownshire 17 December 1903; managing director, BICC 1954-61, chairman 1954-73, honorary president 1973; President, Federation of British Industries 1959-61; director, Midland Bank 1959-81, deputy chairman 1968-77; Kt 1960; created 1966 Baron McFadzean; KT 1976; married 1933 Eileen Gordon (one son, one daughter, and one adopted daughter deceased); died Bath 14 January 1996.**

Births,  
Marriages  
& Deaths

## BIRTHS

**BURNABY-KINGS:** On 16 January 1996, to Emma (née Smith) and Johnny, in Cape Town, South Africa, a son.

**MORGAN:** On 14 January, to Duncan and Sarah, a daughter, Isabel Kate, a sister for Thomas and Peter. Welcome Isabel, love from all in Bilkley.

## DEATHS

**BRIALMT:** Dr Eric W.H. Briault CBE, much-loved husband, father and grandfather, died peacefully on Sunday 14 January, following a long illness, at his home, 24 January. Enquiries to C. Waterhouse F/D, 01435 882219.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales opens his 30th birthday celebrations by visiting the Royal Naval School of Maritime Studies in Portsmouth. The Prince of Wales will also visit the Royal Naval School of Maritime Studies in Portsmouth. The Prince of Wales will also visit the Royal Naval School of Maritime Studies in Portsmouth.

**Changing of the Guard**  
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

## Birthdays

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Consultant and Charge de Mission to the Secretary-General of the UN, 63; Mr Muhammad Ali, former boxing champion, 54; Sir John Boyd, ambassador to Japan, 60; Mr Keith Chegwin, television and radio presenter, 39; Sir Michael Clapham, former chairman, IMI and BPM Holdings, 84; Mr Christopher Crabbe, ambassador to Algeria, 50; Sir Mevyn Davies, former High Court Judge, 78; Sir Edward Ferris, pioneer of radar, 84; Miss Monica Furlong, writer, 66; Mr Neil Gamble, Headmaster, Exeter School, 53; Mile François Hardy, singer and songwriter, 52; The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, 54; Sir Geoffrey Paine MR, 60; Professor William Robertson, pathologist, 73; Mr Vidal Sassoon, hair stylist, 68; Miss Moira Shearer, former ballerina, 70; Mr Richard Smethurst, Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, 55; Mr Clyde Walcott, West Indies cricket administrator, 70; Miss Gillian Weir, concert organiser, 55; Mr Paul Young, singer, 40.

## Anniversaries

**Births:** David Lloyd George, statesman, 1863; Sir Edward Montagu Coneston Mackenzie, novelist, 1883; Al Capone, gangster, 1899; Nevill Shute (Norway), novelist, 1899. **Deaths:** Jean-Auguste Dominique Ingres, painter, 1867; Admiral Sir Henry Keppel, sailor and writer, 1904. On



A command of his craft which few can now equal: Fairclough's evocative etching Lunch at Torcello, 1979

## Wilfred Fairclough

Wilfred Fairclough was a singularly gifted and determined man and artist. Only in 1994, when he was 87, did his age begin to overtake him. He had worked harder since he retired from the Kingston Polytechnic in 1972 than most people do in their working lives. What he wanted to do above all things was to etch, and to make watercolours. Year by year his work was sold at the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers, the Royal Watercolour Society and the Royal Academy.

Born in 1907 in Blackburn, he overcame a tough early life to secure, in 1931, a place at the Royal College of Art. There he was superbly taught by Malcolm Osborne and R.S. (Bob) Austin. Through those years of the Depression, Fairclough mastered his craft as a printmaker. In January 1934 he was elected an associate of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and won the Rome Scholarship in Engraving. "What a week," Austin exclaimed. Thus, while the print market was depressed, Fairclough travelled and worked first in Rome, and then in Spain on the eve of the civil war.

In 1938 he gained a job teaching at the Kingston College of Art (later the Kingston

Poly). Before he was called up for war service in the RAF, he worked for Arnold Palmer on *Recording Britain*, a nationwide survey to which he was one of the most prolific contributors, concentrating on the buildings of Petersham, in Surrey.

In 1942 he worked at RAF Medmenham on models which were used for the Dambusters' raid on the Mohne dam; and he briefly served in India at the end of the war. Returning to Kingston he eventually became, in 1962, Principal of the College of Art, and then Assistant Director of the Kingston Polytechnic and Head of the Division of Design from 1970 until 1972. Although he took justifiable pride in his achievements as teacher and administrator, what mattered most to him was his own work, not only as an etcher but also as a watercolourist, a skill in which he was self-taught, influenced by his admiration for J.M.W. Turner.

All the time that he was teaching Fairclough had kept his interest in etching alive, producing a plate every year, but after he retired he would complete as many as four each year. The long period of eclipse led on to an Indian summer. From 1972 until 1994 he produced 69 etchings, nearly as many as he had done in the previous 40 years. These reveal a command of his craft which few, if any, can now equal. From his traditional training, he was a master of the etching needle, the copper plate and the acid bath. He could produce the richest sensuous tone of black, those velvety blacks which are so typical of his work at its best, contrasted with white tulle and every gradation in between.

For Venice he had a particular affection which replaced his earlier love for Rome. There the traffic had prevented his sketching in 1961, the year in which he received a grant from the Leverhulme Foundation. He spent three weeks in Venice sketching in the heat. He drew on these sketches until the end of his working life.

His record of the city is masterly, whether he is depicting the cafés, bars or restaurants, scenes from the Carnival, views of the city and lagoon, or of concerts in the churches. Of his studies of restaurants none is more evocative than his *Lunch at Torcello* (1979), which captures the flavour of the Locanda Cipriani and the island which lies, alluringly, outside.

Those who visited Fairclough in his studio would find an exhibition prepared on his easels of recent etchings and watercolours. The latter might be of *Switzerland or the Lake District*, or more recently, of Corfe in Dorset, blue and autumnal, or a finally unfinished sketch of St David's in Pembrokeshire. He loved his excursions with his wife, Joan Vernon-Cryer, also a watercolourist of distinction, or with their son Michael, like his wife Mary Malenoir a Rome Scholar in Engraving and a printmaker; or with their daughter Celia, whom he painted as a young student of ballet.

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Professor  
Howard Purnell

Howard Purnell, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at the University of Wales, Swansea, and (since July 1994) President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, was a first-class scientist, an outstanding teacher, a shrewd businessman, a warm-hearted and enthusiastic leader of people, a keen sportsman and the life and soul of the party.

Born in the Rhondda, South Wales, he graduated with a First Class degree in Chemistry at the University of Wales, Cardiff, in 1946. From 1947 to 1952 he was Assistant Lecturer, then Lecturer at Cardiff. But, he said, some of the undergraduates he taught there were "so damned clever that I decided to move to the University of Cambridge to study for another PhD". This he did under the Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry, Professor R.G.W. Norrish.

At Cambridge he rubbed shoulders with the giants in gas-phase chemical kinetics: T.M. Sugden, F.S. Dainton and G. Porter. Upon completion of his doctorate in 1954 he was appointed University Demonstrator, and from 1959 to 1965 he held the posts of University Lecturer in Physical Chemistry and Fellow and Director of Studies in the Natural Sciences at Trinity Hall. Appointed Professor of Physical Chemistry at Swansea in 1965, he was Head of the Department of Chemistry twice (1970-84 and 1988-90) and Vice-Principal of the college from 1982 to 1985.

"Let's talk real science," he said with gusto to his fellow passenger, also a chemist. "If you were to give me a cocktail of organic compounds, consisting of some 50 distinct substances, I could guarantee separating them all – and telling you what they were – in no time at all. We have optimised our chromatographic procedures beautifully."

"Done!" said his fellow passenger, who a few days earlier had, as it happened, produced a puzzling mixture of products by passing certain alcohols over a molybdenum catalyst. Purnell identified all the components of the mixture: the occurrence of some of the constituents was quite unexpected.

Subsequent work led to many new discoveries; and British Petroleum, and then the EEC, supported Purnell's effort in this field for several fruitful years. In parallel with his scientific and pedagogic work at Swansea, he built up the Department of Chemistry to be one of the best-balanced and liveliest in the UK. He attracted back J.H. Beynon from a professorship in Purdue University to establish the world-class Royal Society Research Unit in Mass Spectrometry. He made imaginative staff appointments; he exposed his students to eminent scientists from industry. His students idolised him. Several of them became captains of industry, and one of his postdoctoral assistants is now Head of the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate.

Howard Purnell had generosity of spirit and was completely devoid of malice. Because of his colourful character and powers of vivid presentation, he was a favourite at international conferences and formal dinners acquired an aura of extra excitement when it was known that he was to be an after-dinner speaker or was to "perform" at the piano.

He is to be succeeded as President of the Royal Society of Chemistry by one of those "clever" undergraduates that prompted his move to Cambridge in 1952: Professor E.W. Abel, of Exeter University.

**John Merrig Thomas**  
*John Howard Purnell, chemist: born Rhondda 17 August 1925; Lecturer, University College, Cardiff 1947-52; Demonstrator 1955-60; Lecturer, Cambridge University 1960-65; Professor, University College of Swansea 1965-96 (Emeritus); OBE 1992; President, Royal Society of Chemistry 1994-96; married 1954 Betty Edwards (one son, one daughter); died Swansea 12 January 1996.*



Purnell: 'Let's talk real science'

## Dermot Wilson

Dermot Wilson was the leading authority in the UK on dry fly fishing, particularly in the chalk streams. The poet Ted Hughes wrote of Wilson's book *Fishing the Dry Fly* (1957): "Wherever I open it my eye alights on a paragraph that is delightful to read, and that leads on irresistibly to the next paragraph that is equally delightful and that leads on irresistibly... etc etc."

He was born in Cologne in 1924, where his father was serving in the British army of occupation. He went to Winchester College, where he excelled academically and learnt to fish on the college water on the Itchen, following in the steps of those giants of fishing literature Viscount Grey of Faldo and G.E.M. Skues. Leaving school in 1942, he joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps, in which his distinguished father Maj-Gen T.N.F. Wilson had also served. Dermot Wilson was awarded the Military Cross in North West Europe for leading a patrol behind the enemy lines. He later said, "I didn't deserve it, I just got lost." He was

also mentioned in dispatches.

After the war, he took the Foreign Office exam, finishing top. But when he found he was required to learn Mandarin Chinese, and would spend more than half of his career overseas, he decided against it. Instead, he joined the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson. There, in 1947, he met and married Renée Balsom, his support and mainstay for the next 49 years. He rose to become the youngest director of J. Walter Thompson, at that time, at the age of 37.

In 1968 he set up a mail-order tackle business, the first of its kind, at Nether Wallop, Hampshire, supplying a full range of fly-fishing tackle. It gave an extraordinarily good service. If you ordered flies from Dermot Wilson, they arrived in the post next day. The company grew to employ a staff of 14, many of them friends from his Greenjacket days. In 1981, ill-health caused him to give up, and the business was sold to the US company Orvis, who still run it successfully. Dry fly fishing is a delicate art, and Wilson exemplified it.



A delicate art: Wilson fishing the dry fly on the Itchen

Once, on the Wiltshire Avon at Netton, I saw him kneel down and cast to a fish tucked in below the far bank. Using the finest and most delicate of tackle – a No 2 line and a tiny dry fly – he landed the fly to the inch, just above the fish, which immediately took it. A few inches wrong, and the current would have dragged the fly away. It was a perfect piece of fishing, elegantly executed.

Wilson was for some years Chairman of the Anglers Co-

operative Association, which combats pollution of the rivers. He set up the Water Resources Board of the Salmon and Trout Association. He wrote for *Country Life* and the *Field* and was a popular lecturer at fishing gatherings.

Sidney Vines

**Dermot Needham Farnham Wilson, fly fisherman: born Cologne 1 June 1924; married 1947 Renée Balsom (one son); died Salisbury 10 January 1996.**

## Care order for child at risk must be based on facts

## LAW REPORT

17 January 1996

**Re B (minors); House of Lords (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead); 14 December 1995**

A care order under section 31(2)(a) of the Children Act 1989 could be made only if, on the basis of facts and not suspicion, the court concluded on the balance of probability that the child was suffering harm or there was a real possibility of such harm.

The House of Lords (Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Lloyd dissenting) dismissed an appeal by the local authority from the Court of Appeal's dismissal ([1995] 1 FL 643) of the local authority's appeal from Judge Davidson QC's decision that he had no jurisdiction to make a care order.

Section 31(2) of the Children Act 1989 provides: "A court may only make a care order or supervision order if it is satisfied (a) that the child concerned is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm..."

In 1993 D stated she had been sexually abused by her stepfather. She was accommodated with foster parents and interim care orders were made in respect of her sister and two stepisters. In 1994 the stepfather was acquitted of four counts of rape of D. However the local authority applied for care orders in respect of D's sister and two stepisters. Its case was based solely on the alleged sexual abuse of D by her stepfather. Judge Davidson QC dismissed the application since he could not be sure to the requisite high standard of proof that D's allegations were true, and although he was not impressed by the evidence of the stepfather or the mother, and was prepared to hold there was a real possibility that D's evidence was true.

James Munby QC (Sharp Pritchard for council solicitor) for the local authority, Alan Ley QC and Judith Claxton (Freeth Carwright Hunt

Dickens, Nottingham; Fletchers, Nottingham) for the mother and father; Lindsey Kushner QC (German & Son, Nottingham) for the guardian ad litem.

Lord Nicholls said that under section 31(2) the court must be satisfied of the existence or likelihood of harm. The appeal concerned the need for the court to be "satisfied" that the child was suffering significant harm or was "likely" to do so.

In section 31(2) Parliament had stated the prerequisites which must exist before the court had power to make a care order. The prerequisites marked the boundary line between the differing interests of the parents in caring for their child and the circumstances in which the interests of the child might dictate a need for his care to be entrusted to others. In section 31(2) Parliament had stated the minimum conditions which must be present.

In that context Parliament could not have been using "likely" in the sense of more likely than not. The context showed that in section 31(2)(a) likely was being used in the sense of a real possibility that could not be sensibly ignored having regard to the nature and gravity of the feared harm in the particular case.

The burden of establishing the existence of the conditions rested on the applicant for the care order. Where the matters in issue were facts the standard of proof in non-criminal proceedings was the balance of probability. Built into the standard was a generous degree of flexibility in respect of the seriousness of the allegation. In cases involving the care of children the standard of proof was the balance of probability. Contrary observations were not an accurate statement of the law. There was no difficulty in applying that standard to the

threshold conditions in both limbs of section 31(2)(a).

The local authority's case was based on the second limb – that the three girls were likely to suffer significant harm. The starting-point was that courts acted on evidence. Unresolved judicial doubts and suspicions could no more form the basis of a conclusion that the second threshold had been established than that the first had been established.

The three younger girls were not at risk unless D was abused in the past. If she was not abused there was no reason for thinking the others might be. To decide that the others were at risk because there was a possibility that D was abused would be to base the decision, not on fact, but on suspicion: the suspicion that D might have been abused. That would lower the threshold prescribed.

Lord Goff and Lord Mustill agreed. Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Lloyd dissented.

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister



The Post Office's future is shrouded in doubt. That is what lies behind the threats of industrial action to be raised today

# The last post

Does the letter have a future?

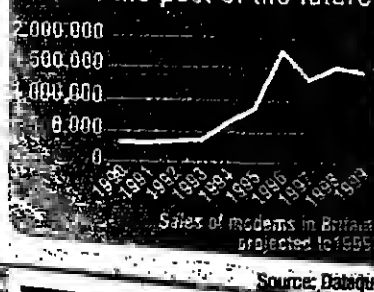
Royal Mail letters: daily



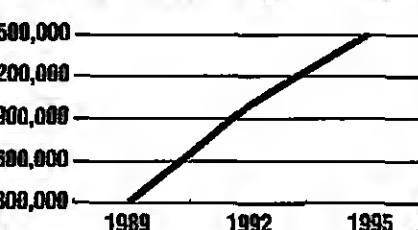
Royal Mail letters: yearly



E-mail: the post of the future



Fax machines in use in Britain



Graphic: Mark Hayman Research: Ben Summers

The Post Office executives might be forgiven for thinking that the Government has got it in for them. Attempts by the one-time monopoly to compete in an increasingly cut-throat market, with rivals ranging from couriers to the Internet, are hampered continually by uncertainty over whether the Royal Mail is to be privatised and by mounting frustration in the ranks.

The organisation, desperately trying to recover from the controversy over Michael Heseltine's botched attempt at privatisation at the end of 1994, was knocked sideways in the November Budget by plans to squeeze more money from its operations.

Plans to make the service more competitive must now be viewed against a much starker financial backdrop. It is not surprising that renewed mutterings from the Government about privatisation have not been welcomed with open arms. They are an unwelcome diversion from the job of running the business.

The challenge faced by the Post Office is enormous. Foreign rivals, most notably its part-privatised Dutch counterpart, are invading its market with vigour and without the shackles that hamper attempts by the UK organisation to expand overseas.

The well-established competition from courier and parcel companies continues unabated and, at the same time, the threat of new technology is

## What future for the business?

accelerating. The fax machine is now so ubiquitous, at home and at work, that many people are confident they could ride out a strike at the Royal Mail. The escalation of connections to the Internet allows growing numbers of people to send messages for as little as 1p. A strike might simply accelerate the trend away from the letter.

## The Royal Mail is a large purveyor of junk mail

The Royal Mail has not been important in responding to the competition. Letters volumes have risen in the 1990s. The Royal Mail has benefited from the growth of direct-mail marketing: it is a large purveyor of junk mail. It has also attempted to become part of the technology revolution, in a relatively modest way. A programme to install computers in the nation's network of 20,000 post office counters might take it further into the electronic age. More directly, there is a £200m investment programme to introduce better technology in an effort to get mail moving faster.

However, these efforts to compete

with the private sector were made more difficult by the Chancellor's decision dramatically to increase the amount the Post Office had been expecting to pay into the Treasury's coffers over the next few years. Instead of a projected payment (the so-called External Financing Limit) of about £178m a year, the Treasury is demanding around £300m each year between 1996 and 1999. That amounts to about the same as the Post Office has provided over the last decade, at a time when competition has never been so fierce.

The pressure means the Post Office either has to improve efficiency on a continuous basis, which will require investment and may provoke industrial relations problems, or it has to raise revenues substantially. The unpalatable fact is that the main source of revenue is still the postage stamp, the price of which will almost inevitably rise later this year, provoking concern among customers and glee among competitors.

The problem for John Roberts, the Post Office's new chief executive, goes beyond the Treasury's thirst for cash. There has been a long-held vision of offering a "seamless" service ranging from designing and printing stationery and letters to storing and posting large quantities of mail for very large users. Its Dutch counterpart can play all

these roles and in Britain just uses the Royal Mail to make the final deliveries. But at the moment the Post Office is constrained by the Government from forging the kinds of business alliances it needs to play such a role. For instance it would like to have an airline as a partner rather than being just another user of charter flights. But that is ruled out by Government rules.

According to a Post Office spokesman: "What we really want to do is think much more widely about integrating all kinds of communications. At the moment we still have to ask for permission to get involved in new activities. All too often it is not forthcoming."

The Post Office made a pre-tax profit of £472m in the year to 31 March 1995. There has been no price rise since November 1993, so results for last year – yet to be announced – may not show a substantial increase. But in the first half of this financial year the pre-tax profits were £194m.

The question is how long profits can keep on rolling as long as the Treasury's demands soar and as more nimble players invade the marketplace. If there is to be a renewed attempt at privatisation, it may need to be sooner rather than later if there is to be a business with growth potential to attract investors.

MARY FAGAN

## What future for the workers?

Post Office is not honouring its pledge that the first delivery will arrive before 9.30am. They believe that more part-time staff will be taken on to work between 9am and noon to make this very large first delivery, leaving a minimal or non-existent second post, normally in the afternoon.

Officials at the Communication Workers' Union have warned the Post Office that unless they receive assurances today about the future of the service, the union's 155,000 members will be balloted on national strikes. The CWU's 17-strong postal committee could be called into emergency session tomorrow to evaluate the Post Office's response to the union's concerns.

The threat of privatisation, which was temporarily abandoned after a revolt last year by Conservative backbenchers, has contributed to shopfloor unrest over the past three years. The prospect of a sell-off re-emerged recently when the Prime Minister said it might find a place in the Conservative general election manifesto.

John Roberts, the Post Office's recently appointed chief executive, says such prime ministerial musings are "unhelpful", but insists that his employees have nothing to fear.

The second delivery is a "key part of the service", he says, and he is deter-

mined to keep a core of full-time employees that will continue to make up around 80 per cent of the workforce. Mr Roberts, who has been in the job for just two months, says he intends to make employee relations one of his priorities and that he wants to make the

## The posties' leader is a right-winger keen to avoid a national dispute

Royal Mail a "world-class employer".

The problem is that his predecessor, Bill Cockburn, made similarly emotive remarks, but the message didn't persuade the shopfloor. The main reason for that seems to be the Post Office's introduction of a fashionable devolved management structure in which local managers have been given greater autonomy to bring in temporary staff. These local initiatives have often undermined the workers' faith in the statesmanlike public statements of senior directors about the future of the service.

That the Post Office may be on the verge of a national strike is all the more surprising because it is not as if the "posties" are led by a militant. Alan

Johnson, joint general secretary of the CWU – his colleague Tony Young represents BT workers – is a right-winger and keen to avoid a national dispute. Mr Johnson is a moderniser and a supporter of Tony Blair. He has said he is confident a settlement can be reached.

Many leading local activists do not share his optimism. Left-wingers enjoy a majority of around two-thirds on the CWU committee covering the Royal Mail, and even some of Mr Johnson's political allies are increasingly of the mind that it is time to take on the Post Office. These activists believe that instead of fighting a series of local disputes which the union has to disown for legal reasons, the leadership should unite in a national campaign. They also believe the public might support industrial action if it were aimed partly at defending the second post.

This may leave Mr Johnson with something of a dilemma. He is not a trade union leader who revels in national disputes. He knows from experience that big customers armed with faxes, e-mail and private postal services can survive for a while without the Royal Mail. If he emerges from his talks proclaiming peace in his time, however, many local activists will not believe him. More local disputes are almost inevitable and that might further undermine his own leadership of the union.

BARRIE CLEMENT

## DIARY

### Daniel gets real (again)

There's acting, there's method acting and there's Daniel Day-Lewis. Having chained himself to a wall to prepare for the part of one of the Guildford Four

woodworking, so far he has helped to construct a dozen clapboard houses, a tavern and an outhouse.

Having mastered Proctor's carpentry skills, Day-Lewis turned his attention to understanding, feeling and experiencing his personal circum-



Dan uses his hammer. Winona knows an easier way...

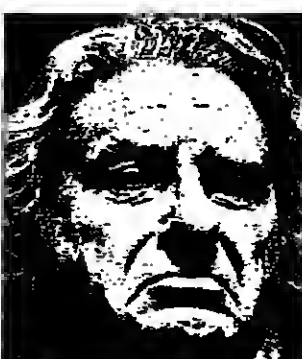
and run around with no clothes on to read himself into *The Last of the Mohicans*. I am glad to hear that Day-Lewis's research technique shows no signs of flagging, though this time it has taken a rather puzzling turn. The crew currently filming Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* off the coast of Massachusetts have found that Day-Lewis, playing the farmer John Proctor, has insisted on building sets with them. Apparently under the impression that 17th-century New England farmers spent all their time in frenzied

stances. The actor turned down the lavish accommodation offered him by the producers, and is living in a spartan house on a rural road with only essential facilities. Those familiar with the play will know that Proctor is hanged at its climax – so far Day-Lewis has decided to use conventional acting skills in this scene.

The obsession with method does not seem to have rubbed off on his co-star Winona Ryder, who plays his wife, Elizabeth Proctor. She has rented sumptuous \$6,000 a month digs,

### Good buy

Was *Goodbye To All That*, the memoirs of the Labour leadership contender Bryan Gould, a prophetic title? It was only published by Macmillan last year, but yesterday I discovered it in Books Etc in Oxford Street – reduced from £16.99 to £3.99. Cheaper, alas, than most paperbacks...



Another kicking for Jezza

### Garden looks far from rosy

Poor Jeremy Isaacs (I hear he does not like the adjective beleaguered) will not have long to recover from the mauling suffered by the Royal Opera House on last night's fly-on-the-wall BBC documentary. Tonight the ROH chief faces a further savaging at the hands of the classical music promoter and opera impresario Raymond Gubbay. They will be on opposite sides at an Oxford Union debate on the National Lottery's propensity for doling out jackpots to elitist institutions.

Gubbay is virtually the only member of the arts establishment prepared to go public about waste, extravagance and restrictive practices in the arts. He tells me he will pull no punches at the debate tonight. "Certainly, there are restrictive practices at the opera house. And it seems to me incredible that while schoolchildren are going without books, the Royal Opera House is moaning, yes

### Finger on the pulse

I see the *Daily Telegraph* is still having trouble telling the difference between dead and alive. Barely a month ago the paper precipitately published the obituary of Lord Colyton, still at that point very much alive. And yesterday Paul Johnson was published on the letters page apologising to Lord Sieff, whom he had written off as "the late Lord Sieff". "I hasten to reassure Marcus Sieff's countless friends that he is still very much with us. I apologise to him and to Lady Sieff for this lamentable slip." To make matters worse, in his original article Johnson described Lord Sieff as a friend of his. Johnson blames "an inexplicable confusion of thought" for his error, a goodly phrase which sounds so much better than some of the alter-

### Sitting target

Having humbled the adversary Portillo at the battle of Admiralty Arch, the Royal Navy top brass have an even trickier problem to solve. Were Nelson's loof square or round? No one in authority seems to know the answer.

The Navy is working away to get HMS Victory shipshape for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar – coming up

in 2005 (put it in your diary). Even Nelson's uniform and pipe will be laid out in his cabin as they were on the eve of battle. But when it comes to the appearance of the lavatories they are at a loss. "Endless books and diaries have been consulted, but to no avail," says an insider. Meanwhile, they are nipping for the round shape. "We have decided," says a senior admiral, "to take a gamble."

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### Generation Why

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way



### ON, HOW PATHETIC!

LOOK AT THEM, REDUCED TO FLASHING THEIR BUMS AT US IN FRUSTRATION...



### IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, THEY'RE BUILDERS...

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### ON, YES...

TANYA...





# THE INDEPENDENT

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## When lawyers let us down

Imagine it: you've finally managed to sell your house. After months of waiting, the deal has been done and contracts have been exchanged. All those anxious months of waiting are over. The escape from negative equity is nigh. Then you find that the solicitor you put in charge of the transaction has made a terrible error and everything goes horribly wrong. Where do you go to complain, to win redress?

Don't bother. That, in a phrase, is the conclusion we should draw from yesterday's report from the Law Society about its Solicitors Complaints Bureau. The survey's figures are shocking. More than two-thirds of those who appeal to the bureau are dissatisfied with the result. Only one in five believes the SCB is impartial in its handling of the complaints. And tales abound of clients who waited months for a response to their complaints only to find their case referred back to the original solicitors with no further action taken.

More than half of those who complained believed the SCB was heavily biased in favour of the solicitor. Hardly surprising when the SCB is staffed by solicitors, funded by solicitors and responsible to the Law Society - in effect the trade union for solicitors.

This is a damning indictment not only of the SCB but of the profession. All professions are based on the claim that the training and expertise of their members means they can be trusted, whether that is with your accounts, your health or your legal affairs. An independent complaints procedure is particularly important for a profession because the client or patient is in a vulnerable position. Without expert knowledge of the legal intricacies of con-

veyancing, for example, it is hard for the average house buyer to know whether the local solicitor has advised them well or not. And as purveyors of essential legal services, solicitors are a monopolistic profession. That means regulation to protect the consumer is vital.

That is not something the SCB is capable of delivering. It argues that most complaints should be dealt with directly by the solicitors involved. This is all very well, but as the survey of almost 800 complainants shows, solicitors firms are even more hopeless at responding to complaints than the SCB. Hardly any of the complainants thought their solicitor had made a proper effort to investigate their original complaint.

Two reforms are vital. The first is the introduction of a genuinely independent body to adjudicate over complaints. The two functions of the Law Society - regulating the profession and representing its members - should be separated. This has already happened for doctors. The British Medical Association stands up for doctors, while the General Medical Council considers questions of malpractice. Regulating the profession in the interests of the consumer should be done by a genuinely independent organisation.

Second, any regulatory body needs teeth in the form of stronger sanctions against solicitors who do their jobs badly. Fines, reprimands to clients, or simply publishing complaints could all have an effect.

These proposals should be part of the Law Society's plans for reform due to be published in the spring. They will be vital if the profession is to restore its credibility with its customers.

## One Nation Tories in search of a home

On Thursday night the great She-Elephant stopped for a brief moment to trumpet her defiance at the rest of the world. This week some minor Tories, like outraged grunts, have taken to the wing, buzzing with shrill indignation at all the noise.

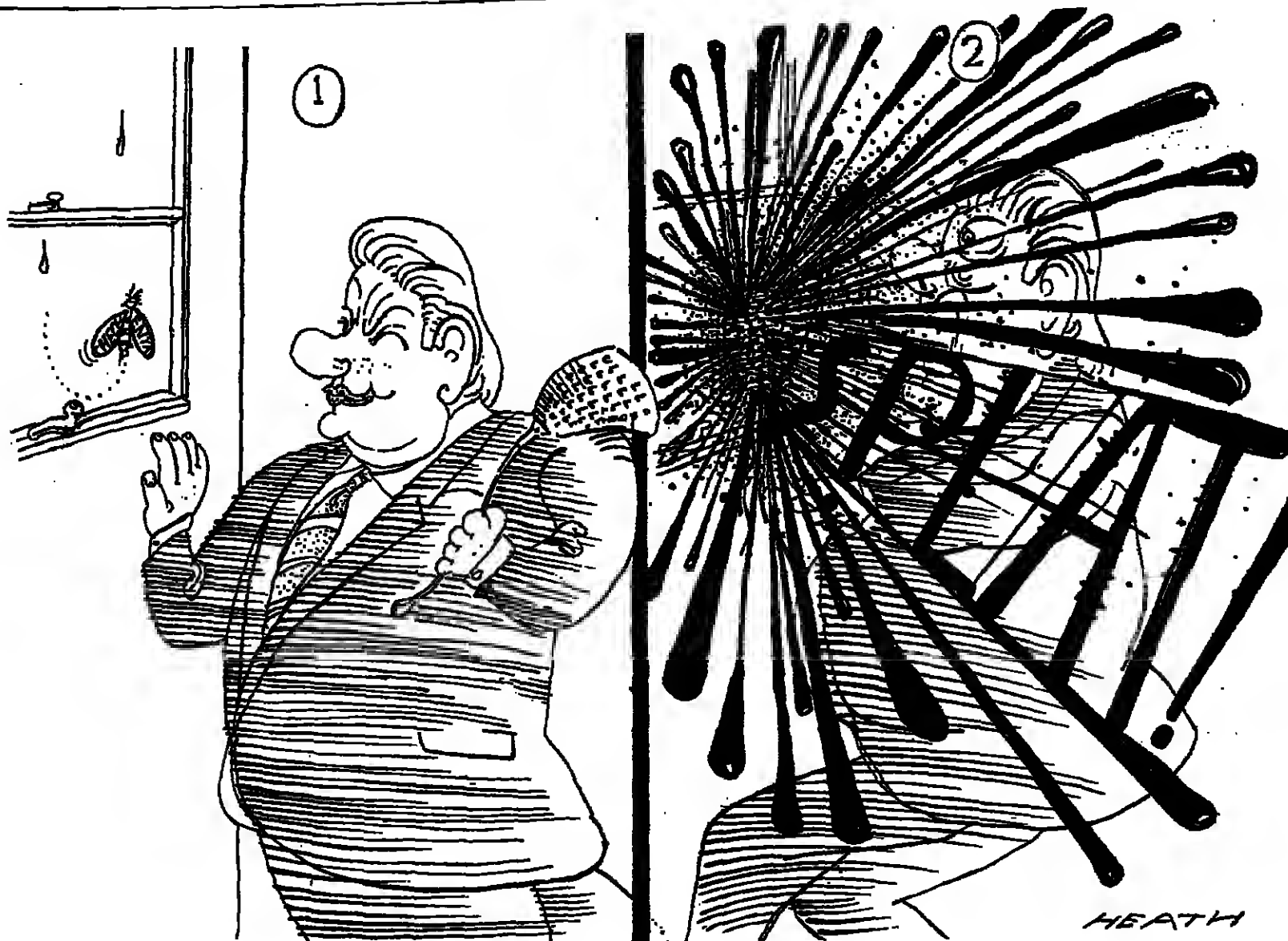
One of these was the "One Nation" minister Alistair Burt, who wrote to the *Times* complaining of the "breath-taking exclusiveness" of Baroness Thatcher's political horizon. She was, in his view, a class warrior who was wishing upon her party the fate reserved by the electorate for all class warriors - defeat.

The trouble is that her attack upon the One Nation Tories has exposed a former emperor with no clothes, for the Tory left no longer has much of an idea what it stands for. David Hunt (once the great hope of the wets) spoke of the need to hold on to the centre ground of British politics, to attract the 40 per cent of the vote needed for victory, for "the centre ground is our ground". Fine as far as it goes, but it goes no farther than pointing out the electorally obvious. We are promised a more coherent defence of traditional Tory values from the Macleod Group of backbenchers, the modern inheritors of One Nation Conservatism. It has the task of not merely rebutting Lady Thatcher but also proving that defectors such as Emma Nicholson and Alan Hurd were wrong to desert the party.

It is a tall order because it is not clear what One Nation Toryism stands for beyond a more compassionate conservatism. In the past, it was a marriage

between a Tory defence of British institutions (including the system of checks and balances that inhibited the executive) and a centre-right commitment to a paternalistic version of the post-war consensus on the welfare state. But Thatcherism and the market have dealt body-blows to these favoured institutions of the wets and where they survive, in the health service and social security, they are crying out for reform. Even the exiled standard-bearer of left-wing Toryism, Chris Patten, has waded in from Hong Kong to put a big question-mark over how much of the welfare burden the state ought to bear.

Pro-Europeanism is too narrow to sustain a political philosophy with popular appeal. This need not mean that One Nation Tories have nothing to say on the subject. Indeed, the Conservative left plays a vital role in challenging the xenophobia of its right-wing. MPs such as George Walden have been the most articulate critics of the Portilloist dislike of foreigners. Others have worried openly about the populist nature of the Howard agenda, and wondered whether, say, the shackling of women prisoners is really an essential feature of modern Toryism. If these mutterings and musings were taken up by a conviction politician, they could be turned into a moral and political crusade. But One Nationists are not crusaders, so they are left just wringing their hands. There is a further difficulty. There is already a home for those who oppose the illiberality of the current administration. And Emma Nicholson has just gone to live there.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### British spurn call to rise and shine early

From Dr T. J. Dennis  
Sir, In "It's time for Scotland to turn the clocks forward" (15 January), Brian Wilson MP reveals what seems to be a widespread ignorance of basic geography in his comment about the inhabitants of "northern Sweden who survive happily on [Central] European time". Leaving aside the fact that northernmost Sweden is inside the Arctic Circle, and at the moment gets no sunlight, he forgets that the country is almost exactly one time zone east of Greenwich, so its choice of European time is entirely appropriate: citizens of Stockholm on CET and the Orkneys on GMT, at about the same latitude, thus have identical local sunrise and sunset times.

He also seems unaware of the one-hour time shift introduced in the UK in the late Sixties, and which was abandoned circa 1972 after public protest.

Yours sincerely,  
T. J. DENNIS  
Birch, Essex  
15 January

From Mr John Tippler  
Sir: Sweden is 15 degrees east of the UK - ie, an hour's natural time ahead of us. Copenhagen, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, and Rome, too, are all at about that same distance to the east.  
If Brian Wilson's arguments

about the benefits are good, all those places should be thinking about putting their clocks yet one more hour further forward. Perhaps I should begin to lobby my Swedish friends immediately.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN TIPPLER  
Stockholm  
Sweden  
15 January

From Mr J. R. Lucas  
Sir: It is not just light, but heat that matters. There are many days, even in the south of England, when it is foggy or icy in the morning, and it is difficult to get around until the sun has broken through, and the roads remain passable until an hour or two after sunset.

If we want to have working hours the same for most people throughout the year, we need to have them so that even in winter most people can manage to get to and from work most days. Nine to five GMT is a better fit than eight to four.

Yours sincerely,  
J. R. LUCAS  
Merton College  
Oxford  
18 January

From Ms Caroline Mercer  
Sir: This morning I walked to work in daylight (8.30am-9am) but I will be walking home in the

dark (5.30pm-6pm). If the clocks were put forward an hour, I would be walking to work in the dark and still walking home in the dark, given that it is currently dark by 4.30pm.

I do not believe that my working hours are particularly unusual. Presumably, the women with whose vulnerability to attack on their way home Mr Wilson is concerned are all teachers?

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE MERCER  
Edinburgh  
16 January

From Mr Donald MacNeill  
Sir: If Brian Wilson is so keen to have people travel safely in daylight in mid-winter Scotland, why does he have to tamper with the clock to achieve it?

Would it not be simpler for people to start work one hour earlier in the morning? This way, we could all keep in touch with our Continental counterparts while allowing our rural dwellers, human and animal, to work to a natural timescale - all in relative safety.

Mind you, an early start to the day would probably be too much for our MPs.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD MACNEILL  
Livingston,  
West Lothian  
15 January

### The shape of Paternoster Square

From Mr John Pearce  
Sir: When I was a boy I had a set of building bricks. Imaginatively designed, it had pieces in every "classical" shape one could wish for - low pediments, steep pediments, quarter-arches, arches, tympana, columns, capitals, architraves, even finials (I remember learning the names from the instruction sheet, and thinking, even at the age of seven, how artificial it all seemed). The set was rather short of plain blocks and bricks, it is true, but I was to see it in use once more after 50 years - in the drawings for the Paternoster Square scheme.

The central defect of both the

1950s scheme and the current proposals is very simple: they are both unrelieved office space. The area needs a brief that includes a substantial proportion of residential space distributed in units of a wide range of sizes and across as much of the price range as the economics of the whole project will allow. Given those requirements, the "classical" Post-Modernists would be unable to make the area look better than a des. det. res. estate in Wimbledon and would be laughed out of court.

Yours etc,  
JOHN PEARCE  
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire  
10 January

### Dead in the water

From Mr N. H. E. Lewis  
Sir: I write with regard to the letter from Tim Craig (15 January) who assisted in the preparations for a burial at sea. However, I recall that when I visited HMS Victory at Portsmouth, the guide told me that "the stitch through the nose" was to prevent the escape of press-ganged sailors in the early part of the 19th century.

Apparently, the ruse used in order to escape was to get substituted for a dead body in the canvas body bag. The authorities got wise to this subterfuge, so, in order to prevent sailors escaping, they used to put a stitch through the nose when sewing up the bag.

Yours faithfully,  
N. H. E. LEWIS  
Nelson, Mid Glamorgan

From Mr Hugh Millington  
Sir: French slang for an undertaker is "croque-mort" (biter of the dead), a term still used today but deriving from days of old when the undertaker, just to make absolutely sure, would bite the corpse. As a former undertaker myself, I think, if pronounced dead at sea, I would prefer to be woken up by that method as opposed to the "law of the sea" method.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH MILLINGTON  
Boston Spa, West Yorkshire

### Let the classics teach morality

From Ms Rhoda Koenig  
Sir: Your leading article "Moral tales in the classroom" (15 January) states that young people are very concerned with morality, but the examples you give show that you are rather confused about its nature. You say that teenage girls wonder whether to sleep with boys, and both sexes want to know how to treat their friends. What does this have to do with morality? It has to do with the desire to be liked.

More importantly, you do not mention - indeed, no articles on the subject seem to - that if one gives children a proper education in their literature there is no need for a separate class in morality. It is impossible to teach *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jess of the D'Urbervilles*, or anything by Shakespeare or Dickens, to take just a few examples, without discussing moral as well as literary values. It also puts morality in a more interesting context than that of current events or everyday problems, which are far less likely to engage a child's imagination.

Sadly, the power acquired by those who mislabel and defend

idleness, ignorance and timidity in teachers denies our children not only the beauty of their literature but its usefulness as well.

Yours sincerely,  
RHODA KOENIG  
London, NW3  
15 January

From Mr Denys Potts  
Sir: How on earth can parents and teachers plausibly preach absolutism, when those who govern us practise moral relativism on such a grandiose scale?

Yours faithfully,  
DENYS POTTS  
Oxford  
14 January

From Mrs L. M. H. Jones  
Sir: A government that has promoted Sunday trading and the National Lottery might want only a selected few of the Ten Commandments taught in schools. There could be difficulty with number four (You shall keep Sunday holy) and ten (You shall not covet).

Yours faithfully,  
LINDSAY JONES  
Newcastle upon Tyne

### Woolly data

From Mr Paul Brenton  
Sir: If Adam Savill (letter, 14 January) is keen to eliminate woolly thinking from the debate concerning the UK's relationship with the European Union, he should take more care when presenting relevant data.

Official sources show that less than half of UK exports are sold in non-EU countries, not the 60 per cent that Mr Savill reports. For overseas investment, Mr Savill believes that 75 per cent goes outside of the EU. Investment figures vary greatly from year to year but over the five years prior to 1994, 56 per cent of overseas investment by UK companies went outside of the EU.

Lack of care with the figures leads to sloppy and possibly erroneous policy conclusions. For international trade it is clear that distance matters. Geography cannot be changed, whether you are for or against strong links with the European Union.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL BRENTON  
Research Fellow  
Centre for European Policy Studies  
Brussels  
15 January

### Lib Dems aplenty

From Lord Tope  
Sir: I read with interest John Rentoul's article (12 January) about the supposed search for parliamentary candidates the Liberal Democrats are undertaking in London. May I assure Mr Rentoul that whenever the general election is called, every seat in London will have a Liberal Democrat candidate.

There is healthy competition for approval as a prospective parliamentary candidate and London is ahead of its targets for the candidate selection, with about half the constituencies in London having their Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate in place already.

Any appeal for candidates is part of the normal process of "geeing" up the party after the Christmas break. We currently have enough approved candidates to fill the remaining seats, but want more people to come forward for approval so that the remaining local parties have the best possible choice.

Yours etc,  
TOPE  
House of Lords  
London, SW1  
12 January

### Time for romance

From Mr Tony Brandon  
Sir: In today's issue (Home News, 13 January), you refer to the newly refurbished clock at Waterloo station in London as a romantic rendezvous for lovers which was immortalised in the Noel Coward 1946 film classic *Brief Encounter*, starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson.

The truth is that the hapless couple held their trysts some 200 miles north of the capital, where the location filming took place, on Carnforth station in Lancashire. Indeed, in her biography, Celia Johnson speaks warmly of the many happy hours she spent in the company of the station staff.

Yours sincerely,  
TONY BRANDON  
Haslemere,  
Surrey  
13 January

### Motorway Mass

From Professor N. Kurti  
Sir: Your article about the celebration of the motor car ("Cars drive down the aisle and into a row", 15 January) mentions that two cars would be driven down the centre aisle of Coventry cathedral. This reminds me of the cartoon that appeared in the French weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* when the conversion of a quail near Notre Dame into a motorway was first mooted. It depicts the West elevation of the cathedral with lines of cars respectively entering and leaving by the two main portals and a notice "Please do not sound your horn during Mass".

Yours faithfully,  
N. KURTI  
Department of Physics  
University of Oxford  
Oxford  
15 January

## Dawn of a new era in road accidents

How is this new daylight arrangement going to work?

Well, for a start, evening road accidents will be transferred to the morning.

You mean, the accidents which would normally take place in the grim, grey evenings will now take place in the grim, grey mornings?

Yes.

Will there be a good reason for this?

Yes. When an accident takes place in the evening, it is difficult to get it dealt with, as most mechanics are knocking off for the evening and those that are available tend to charge overtime and double time. Then again, repair jobs that are done in the evening by had or artificial light, by mechanics who are tired after a full day's work, tend to be shoddy and to lead to more accidents later on.

But if we transfer all these accidents to the morning period, that means you have the whole day in which to get them sorted out, by mechanics who are working at peak efficiency.

What does the phrase "peak efficiency" mean when applied to garage mechanics?

Very little. At best, it means that



MILES KINGSTON

less than 50 per cent of their attention is devoted to Radio 1.

How will these new lighter evenings affect the British class system?

It may radically change the time of middle-class dinner parties. At the moment, when two middle-class units are asking each other out to dinner, one always asks the other what time they should arrive, and the other always says, "Oh, I don't know, about, let me see, eight?" and the first one says, "Eight o'clock, fine, see you then, then." However, middle-class couples never arrive at eight. They always arrive late.

Why is that?

Because they are waiting for the babysitter to arrive before leaving and because they do not start changing until *The Archers* has finished at 7.20 and because they have to have time to fit in a fierce argument about whose turn it is to

lay off the wine and drive home. But with these new lighter evenings, it may well happen that the middle classes will start saying to each other, "See you about nineish for dinner, then?"

How will this affect life in general?

Very badly. If dinners start an hour later, they will also finish an hour later, and couples will be more tired on the way home. Therefore they will tend to crash more often on the way home, especially if they cannot remember which one of them is meant to be driving. Mechanics will not be available to come to their aid, as they are getting an early night's sleep to deal with the new rash of early-morning accidents.

In addition, babysitters will tend to fall asleep more at home, thus leading to a new peak in domestic accidents.

Will the new daylight arrangements satisfy farmers in the north of Scotland?

Nothing ever satisfies farmers in the north of Scotland. That is why they are automatically excluded from all statistical tables.

How will they affect garage mechanics in the north of Scotland? Very badly. The local farmers,

furiously at being yet again ignored and mistreated by the English parliament, will drive even more carelessly and recklessly and this will lead to a rise in road accidents at all times, which will put an increasing load on local garage mechanics. They will need counselling, maybe even psychiatric help, which will place an extra burden on the local NHS, causing medical staff to drive with even more urgency, leading to more accidents which places a further onus on the mechanics....

Yes, yes, I get the picture. But is there any section of society that will not be affected by these changes to our daylight arrangements?

Yes. It will not affect those people who arrive for work in the evening when it's already dark and work late into the night, making their biggest decisions when they are flat out on their feet and too knackered to think straight.

Good heavens. Who are these people?

They are called MPs.

Are these the very ones who are coming to a decision on our daylight arrangements?

Yes.

Oh, dear.

Precisely.



## Why Mr Masari is good for us

The courts are to test the Saudi dissident's case for asylum. His values will test all thinking liberals

The day before the deadline for his deportation to Saudi Arabia yesterday, Dr Mohammed al-Masari, the Saudi dissident, filed his asylum appeal. It will be some months before his case is heard and until then he will continue to run his campaign for the downfall of the corrupt and despotic regime of the Fahd monarchy.

In his north-west London flat, he and his followers break off to pray at regular intervals, bowing down to Mecca among the whirring, humming and clicking electronic apparatuses of a modern propaganda machine that sustains an underground cell structure in Saudi Arabia. Much has been written of Mr Masari's campaign, his torture and persecution by Saudi authorities. That the Saudis are a bad lot is not in issue among reasonable people not in their pay.

Rather less attention, though, has been paid to the question of what sort of state Mr Masari's Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights seeks to establish. I wanted to find out a little more about exactly what political values he in Britain are being asked to protect.

His campaign wants to establish an Islamic republic. In his theocracy, he says, the clergy would only be advisers, while politicians would be elected democratically by both men and women. Would all political parties be able to stand? Yes, of course – but only if they were Islamic parties, committed to ruling the country

strictly according to the laws laid down in the Koran. No one else? No.

His campaign is translated somewhat conveniently in English as the defence of "legitimate" rights, apparently using the language of the United Nations Charter of Human Rights. The Arabic word, however, is not "legitimate" as we understand it, but *shari'a* – giving citizens rights only under the Islamic law of the Koran. Experts had warned me that terminological inexactitudes litter the work of Mr Masari's group, allowing them to sound easy on Western ears in English, yet lean more strongly towards Mecca when addressing the Arab world.

I tried to get some idea of what kind of freedoms there would be under Mr Masari's Islamic republic. Did he admire the late Ayatollah Khomeini? "Yes, he was a very brilliant and shrewd man, a unique personality." Was he right about the *fatwa* on Salman Rushdie? "No, it could not be said to apply in a non-Islamic state. But I think every country in the world should adopt strict anti-blasphemy laws so that no religions are offended, then we would not have these problems." (This does not quite tally with the impassioned, unqualified defence of freedom of speech he made in an article for this paper recently.)

On crime and punishment, he would not change current Saudi law. "Execution by beheading is very shocking, but it is the most merciful,



POLLY TOYNEBEE

more merciful than the electric chair, and it is clearly ordered in the Koran. These head-flys, where the head flies up from the sword, are very shocking to watch, and very educational for the people."

Ditto for other amputations for theft. "But people do exaggerate these things, I find," he says, complaining about the West's preoccupation with such punishments.

What about women? The Koran clearly states several times that women are a degree below men in all things. He explains that someone must always have ultimate authority. "That person cannot be the woman because the man is physically stronger and he will beat her up if she is in charge. He is the more cool and rational one. He earns the money, and spends it for the family. The mother must stay at home to look after her children, or otherwise they will have an unsound education and upbringing. This system protects her from conflict with the one with the muscle and the money."

Women must submit to sex with

their husbands at any time, in any manner, otherwise they commit a sin. "That is because sex in marriage is an important safety valve in society to contain men's behaviour."

Western society, he says, is feeling the effects of badly brought-up children, divorce and single parenthood. "It may take a few generations, but single-parent families lead to the degeneration of the society."

What of his own family life? He has one wife in Saudi Arabia with a three-year-old son, Abdul. He has another wife in America with a two-and-a-half-year-old son called Abdulrah. Then there is a divorced wife in America with a daughter – "about seven or eight, I think" – and another divorced wife in Saudi Arabia. He has two young daughters with him in London, but I lost track of who their mother was, and a 25-year-old son in Saudi. "Divorce is a very good thing in Islam," he says. "It happens very amicably, very easily. No one has to prove in court that someone has committed adultery, which causes so much anger. My divorces have been very friendly, I would say."

But, I ask, if he is so strongly against single-parent families, how does he feel about having created two of them himself? He doesn't really follow my line of thought and looks mystified by my question. Hardly surprised, since I find it just as hard to follow his train of thought. We are talking to one another across such a chasm of

cultural difference, across half the globe and down several centuries. And the gender divide makes all meaningful communication between us incomprehensible.

We progress to talk of adultery. He is very strongly against it. "There should be 80 lashes for sex outside marriage for those who are not married and 100 lashes for married people who commit adultery, but I do not support stoning."

So there you have it. There are, of course, other strands of Islamic thought that interpret the Koran more generously. Although as an atheist, I doubt I would find any more sympathy for them. Tolerating people's religious beliefs doesn't mean having to be polite about them. Probing the full obnoxiousness of Mr Masari's views is really just an exercise in testing liberal values to near-breaking point. For quite apart from the 30,000 armaments jobs at risk, there can be few groups less congenial to the ethos of liberal Western democracy than these Islamic fundamentalists.

So why harbour such vipers? Because, between gritted teeth, we have to practice the freedom of speech we somewhat smugly preach at them. The principles that are easy to keep are rarely the most important ones, and this is one of the toughest: along with Voltaire, we may detest virtually everything Mr Masari stands for, but we are obliged to fight for his right to say it – and to say it here.

## Primitive? Then what are we?

The West Papuans holding a group of Europeans are fighting against extermination, says Aidan Rankin

West Papua has been much in the news this week, because of the kidnapping of a group of Europeans. If you believe the media coverage, the kidnappers are "primitive", "stone-age" tribesmen, who recently gave up "head-hunting". There is in the use of these terms a wilful ignorance about West Papua and an implicit denial of its people's right to determine their own future.

If West Papuans are stone-age, the argument goes, surely it is inevitable that they should "catch up" with the developed world. Yet a West Papuan who stares into the huge crater gouged out of a sacred mountain by a Western corporation mining gold might have a different definition of "primitive" from our own.

"We are thrusting a spear of development into the heart of West Papua." With these words, James Moffett, chairman of the New Orleans-based mining company Freeport McMoRan, encapsulates Western attitudes to this oppressed country and its people. His mindset appeals to West Papua's Indonesian overlords, who, since the Act of Free Choice that they imposed in 1969 (West Papuans call it the Act of Free Choice) have pursued a violently ethnocentric policy known as "One Nation". This includes a policy known as "transmigration", by which large numbers of Indonesians are encouraged to settle on land seized from indigenous West Papuans.

Nobody can condone the taking of innocent civilians as hostages for a political (or any other) goal. But the kidnapping is merely the latest phase in the secret war, a cycle of oppression, resistance and survival that began with the Indonesian occupation in the mid-Sixties.

Since then, the people of West Papua have waged an isolated campaign against one of the world's most ruthless colonial powers. In West Papua torture and detention without trial are commonplace, disappearance and intimidation routine and 43,000 indigenous people have been killed. After a six-month visit in 1986, the Swiss pilot Theodore Frey said: "I never met a single family which has not lost at least one member... the Indonesians are bringing not development, but systematic extermination."

West Papua's 1 million people are Melanesians, like their eastern neighbours in Papua New Guinea. Melanesians constitute less than 1 per cent of the world's population but speak 25 per cent of its known

languages. They have been living on the island of New Guinea for at least 40,000 years. West Papua is a land of dramatic contrasts in geography and climate. On the south coast lies the Asmat region, swampy and famous for its wood carvings, whereas the Amungme and Dani peoples live in the northern highlands. Among the revered snow-capped peaks near the Freeport site is the home of Jo-Mun Nerek, the Amungme's ancestral spirit.

Many West Papuans are Christian, but links with the spirit world remain strong. However it is misleading to generalise about West Papuans as it is about Europeans, for the

'Freeport is digging out our mother's brain. That is why we are resisting'

range of societies is equally diverse.

What can be said is that none of them in any way approximates to the European Stone Age, and that like all other societies they have their own dynamic of change. Accusing them of being cannibals, for example, is like accusing modern Britain of denying women the vote. They also share a profound respect for the land as the source of food and life. Some 80 per cent of their land is covered in forest, in which they practise subsistence agriculture, cultivating sago and sweet potatoes and raising large herds of pigs. But the Indonesians have a different kind of reverence for the land, because it sits on some of the richest copper and gold deposits in the world.

When it comes to Western investment, West Papua suddenly ceases to be either "remote" or "inhospitable". Freeport's massive expansion made possible by \$1.25bn from London-based RTZ, the world's largest mining company, RTZ has an 11.8 per cent share in the company's board. For Indonesia and the West, this means "development" and "growth", but an Amungme leader presents a very different version of the story: "Freeport," he says, "is digging out our mother's brain. That is why we are resisting."

The writer works for *Survival International*, which campaigns for tribal peoples' rights.

## An end to the Greek myth

Andreas Papandreu's regime was built on corruption. Now the reckoning begins, says Andrew Gumbel

No doubt there will be plenty of Greeks saddened by yesterday's news that Andreas Papandreu has finally resigned as prime minister. After all, he has been the towering personality of Greek politics over the past 15 years, stamping the nation's psyche with his quirky and autocratic style of leadership. The fascination he has exerted extends well beyond the confines of Pasok, the socialist movement he founded in 1974, and indeed has created a political climate that even his opponents have sought to emulate.

But as the Papandreu era ends, the reckoning will inevitably begin. Who ever succeeds the legendary Greece will find the reality of modern Greece very different from the picture built up by more than a decade of defiant populist rhetoric. True, he has kept his country on the map of world affairs.

'Greece has no strategy, just power. We've become like a Third World bazaar'

but at a considerable price. Greece is distrusted and disliked abroad for its obstinate foreign policy and penchant for picking fights with its neighbours. Its political culture is steeped in corruption and clientelism, and its economy is backward and undisciplined.

Greece never had much of an industrial base, relying largely on shipping and tourism for its foreign trade revenue, but unlike other European nations in a similar position 10 years ago, such as Portugal and Spain, it has failed to make use of its deficiencies. Largely this has been the doing of Mr Papandreu, who has run Greece more like a private fiefdom than a country, handing out favours and state funds but failing to improve public services or build a modern industrial base. A formerly agricultural society has flocked to poorly built and polluted cities, only to subsidise off a system that is rapidly running out of money. "The myth of Papandreu will disappear. In modern Greece there is no place for myths any more," predicts Dimitris Haralambis, a political science professor at Athens University. "Greece has no strategy, just power. We've become a Third World bazaar."

In the Papandreu version of social and economic progress, the bulk of economic power lies in the hands of around two dozen families, who by turns control or are controlled by the politicians. Much of the economy is hereby reliant on the state for patronage, contracts, tax breaks or subsidies, while enterprises unable to break into



Carrying cabbages in Crete: Greece has failed to build an industrial base. Photograph: Jeremy Nichol/Impact

this clientistic system have simply disappeared into the black economy, which accounts for as much as half of Greece's wealth.

The political class, meanwhile, has remained firmly in the grasp of the ruling party, and the ruling party in the hands of its leader. A telling symptom of the near-feudal power structure is that Papandreu's wife, Dimitra, has been head of his private office, his son George is education minister, and his wife's cousin George Liapi is sports minister. Friends and relatives of the influential are routinely appointed to civil service jobs, regardless of their qualifications, with the result that many key governmental tasks, such as financial management of public works projects, are skimmed over or ignored altogether.

This nepotistic power structure managed to flourish during the Eighties, when Greece was still a frontline

state in the Cold War and Europe's economies were all booming. In the past two years, however, even Mr Papandreu has been unable to conceal the awkward truth: that the country is primitive, desperately short of money and reliant almost entirely on the European Union for its future. Thus Greece has been meekly – and quite successfully – following a strict austerity programme to cut public spending, bring inflation under control and initiate a privatisation programme. In return, the EU has ploughed in funds to finance such basics as proper roads, a metro system for Athens and a modern airport.

Such dependence on the outside world is not something that the Papandreu system has swallowed easily. Many of the EU development projects are yet to get off the ground because the government has taken too long apportioning the various contracts.

Some deals, such as the airport project at Spata, outside Athens, or the Rio-Antirio bridge across the Hellespont, have been renegotiated from scratch since Pasok returned to power. Two months ago, the public works minister, Costas Laliotis, admitted that two trillion drachmas (more than £5bn) in development funds were yet to be disbursed and risked being lost altogether if Greece did not hurry up. The privatisation programme has also progressed at a snail's pace, partly because of unrealistic expectations of the price that could be fetched by state corporations such as OTE, the telecommunications company, and partly because of Greece's peculiar structural problems. When the Skaramanga shipyard came up for sale last September, it turned out that there was no property deed for at least half the terrain it covered because it had been built over a landfill. A deal to sell

the yard to an international consortium thus fell through.

Even Greece's foreign policy has only reluctantly become more conciliatory. Last September, the country signed an accord to end its dispute over the name of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia in its northern border, but only after three years of sabre-rattling that seriously risked destabilising the underbelly of the Balkans. It has barely concealed its pro-Serbian sympathies in the Bosnian conflict, and only lately offered to contribute to the international peace-keeping effort.

Within the EU, Greece is perceived as looking out only for its own interests, and showing ill-humour about it into the bargain. Mr Papandreu did not help matters when he skipped an EU ambassadors' lunch in Athens on grounds of ill health, only to pop up

Many ordinary people survive thanks to either the state sector or the black economy

at a lunch for Arab ambassadors a short time afterwards. Right up to the end, his maverick, anti-Western streak has never really disappeared.

Such problems will not evaporate with his resignation. Even if his successor is a serious moderniser, such as Costas Simitis, the main anti-Papandreu dissident within Pasok, attempts at reform are likely to meet fierce resistance from the clientelistic structure established over the past 15 years, and from the pro-Papandreu lobby still in control of the ruling party machine.

There is also a danger that an excessively austere economic programme could spark serious social unrest in a country as unevenly developed as Greece. At the moment, many ordinary people survive thanks to either the state sector or the black economy. If the former is cut back and the latter savaged by strict tax evasion laws, the results could be very painful indeed. Nine months ago, farmers, small shopkeepers and some state workers staged a series of lightning strikes in protest at new tax legislation. Last November, Athens was rocked by the biggest university riot in 20 years and a five-day orgy of violence at the Korydallos prison. These are worrying portents for the future, and the new Greek prime minister will have a delicate balancing act to perform. He is unlikely to feel much gratitude for the confused, corrupt and volatile legacy that Mr Papandreu has bestowed upon him.

### ANOTHER VIEW Adrian Foster-Fletcher

## Not all Newbury's businesses want a bypass

At a meeting in Newbury yesterday, a group of local businessmen voiced our opposition to the Newbury bypass, much to the astonishment of local journalists. Why do we take our recent position? Because often environmental concerns are also those of business.

Fundamentally, there has been no discussion of the issues surrounding the Newbury bypass since the last public inquiry in 1988, which did not look at the transport alternatives and at one single objective – "Which way should a north-south trunk road follow?"

Since then, a number of significant

changes have taken place across the country which now call the decision to build a bypass into question. First, the decision was made before the M25 was opened, which we all assumed would relieve traffic around Greater London.

Second, while 90 per cent of business is located to the east of Newbury, an eastern route was not feasible, due to the American Air Force base at Greenham Common, which cuts right across land to the east.

Thirdly, digital telephone technology allowing people to work from home, linked into their office computer systems, was not available as it is now.

And lastly, the incidence of children being molested on their way to and from school has become a significant issue, thus increasing the number of parents driving their children twice a day.

Newbury does have a traffic problem, but typically only for one hour in the morning and evening and on race days. The traffic in neighbouring Reading is much worse. What is different in Newbury is the significant number of HGVs, particularly car transporters, coming through the town. Local opinion is divided as to how much of this is local and how much through traffic. Given that a

traffic survey has not been carried out since 1986 – and that was done in August to avoid school traffic being included – it makes it very hard to identify the scale of the problem.

In order for us to run our businesses effectively, we need an infrastructure that is not clogged by cars taking children to school nor held up by local commuters getting into the town centre (when they could be using a park and ride). We need to free trunk roads from the HGVs that are a threat to our lives. (My brother-in-law was killed by an HGV in 1982 while working as an agricultural feed representative.)

We don't want to spend £101m of government money on a controversial road scheme that will not solve Newbury's traffic problems – in five years' time traffic will be back to present levels. That money should be invested in the rail network and in subsidies to businesses to provide shared transport for their employees and tax incentives for businesses that are based at home. As it is, Newbury has just opened a new business park at Greenham and it has not one single bus to service it.

The writer is managing director of Focus Executive, based in Newbury.



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## Alliance blocks float payouts to the carpetbaggers

JOHN WILCOCK  
Financial Correspondent

So-called "carpetbaggers" who poured several million pounds into new accounts in the Alliance & Leicester Building Society over the last couple of days in the hope of bonus payouts when it converts to bank status will not receive a penny, it emerged yesterday.

The news came as City

sources revealed that the UK's third-biggest society will impose a retrospective cut-off date, 31 December 1995, for bonus payments on its proposed £3bn flotation.

The frenzied crowds of account-openers that spilled on to the pavement on Monday at Alliance's branch in Kingsway, London, for example, will receive no bonus payments. Even after Alliance raised the

minimum balance for new membership accounts recently to £5,000 it was still getting "significant inflows," according to City observers.

The Alliance's 3 million-odd existing members will receive an average cash payment of around £800, higher than previous estimates of £500.

Alliance's intention to demutualise, first reported by the *Independent* on 26 September

last year, will be officially announced in a couple of weeks.

The society will put the proposed float to a vote by members towards the end of the year. Alliance is then scheduled to float on the stock market in mid-1997, five to six months before the flotation of Woolwich Building Society.

Observers point out that Alliance started to close share accounts as early as last December

in order to forestall "carpetbaggers" who were opening accounts in the hope of a pay-off.

Yesterday Alliance officially announced the withdrawal of its last membership accounts to new investors, in order to "prevent speculation."

The closed accounts include Tessa, Bonus 90, Bonus 180 and Midas share accounts. "This action follows the closure of the society's Keysaver account on 15

January and effectively closes the door on all speculative investments," the society said.

New savers can still open a Prime Deposit account, introduced on 4 December, which does not confer membership rights, the society said.

The only way to still take advantage of a flotation bonus is to take out a mortgage with Alliance, according to analysts, although this would be an

extreme approach. "Existing customers of the Alliance & Leicester can continue to operate their accounts normally and are unaffected by these changes," the society said.

Customers with maturing Tessa accounts can roll these over into replacement accounts which still confer membership

rights and therefore a cash pay-off, the society added.

Alliance said it was still unclear how many people would get a pay-off. Not all of its 3 million share accounts give full membership rights. All 500,000 mortgage borrowers will get a pay-off.

City analysts expect Alliance to announce soon its third consecutive set of record annual profits, at more than £300m.

## Prospect of lower rates ignites the markets

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Correspondent

Hopes that a round of international interest rate cuts will start in Germany tomorrow, ahead of a weekend meeting of ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrial countries, ignited financial markets yesterday.

The prospect of lower rates, triggered by a looming economic crisis in Germany, took the mark lower against the dollar and other currencies. The dollar touched DM1.46 before falling back slightly. German share prices set a record.

The pound also strengthened against the mark. Shares in London jumped, the FT-SE 100 index ending nearly 48

let slip a day early news that unemployment had fallen for the 28th month in succession in December, did nothing to dent the view that the economy's weakness justifies lower rates.

Evidence that the German economy is slowing sharply has raised expectations that the Bundesbank will trim its repo rate, a market rate at which it deals with banks, after its council meeting tomorrow.

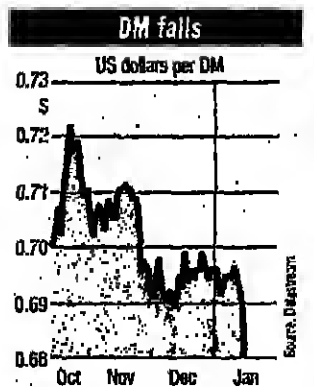
Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, fuelled the sense of anticipation in financial markets when he told German television that interest rate could fall if growth of the M3 money supply measure remained below target. Analysts think the official discount rate is likely to be reduced before the end of March. The Bank of France is also expected to act tomorrow.

The G7 finance ministers and central bankers meeting in Paris at the weekend will discuss the danger of a global slowdown. French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, said French and German economics ministers would meet separately to discuss the economic troubles afflicting both countries.

The G7 meeting is one of a clutch of international policy sessions, starting with yesterday's monthly meeting of central bankers at the European Monetary Institute in Frankfurt, and leading on to an EU finance ministers' meeting on Monday.

Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB Securities in London, said: "How to transform the dead-weight of the German slowdown back into the engine of European growth will be at the top of the G7 agenda."

Recent evidence indicating that Germany's GDP was, at best, flat in the final quarter of last year after falling in the third quarter has caused consternation among policymakers, not least because it suggested the country will find it difficult to satisfy the Maastricht criteria for joining the European single currency. In 1995 the German government budget deficit was 3.6 per cent of GDP, above the 3 per cent target.



points higher at 3,710.6. Paris and other Continental stock markets also climbed, but Wall Street was down 21 points to 5,027 at midday.

Richard Kersley, equity strategist at BZW, said: "A mood of optimism about lower interest rates has revived."

Fears about the danger of recession mean interest rates in the US, Britain and the rest of Europe are widely expected to fall within the next few weeks.

Most City of London economists believe Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will probably not move after their meeting today, but a quarter point base rate reduction is likely in February or March.

The fact that Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister,

Mirror, mirror... Heseltine puts a keen gloss on Pilkington's new 'float glass' product



Full exposure: The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, attended the unveiling yesterday at the Pilkington Technology Centre of the new product, which the group says marks a breakthrough in glass manufacturing

## Scottish & Newcastle to cut 1,600 brewing jobs

NIGEL COPE

Scottish & Newcastle, which became Britain's biggest brewer following its acquisition of Courage last summer, is to cut 1,600 jobs and close two breweries as part of the integration programme. The cuts represent 20 per cent of the group's 8,000 beer production employees.

The company plans to close the Fountain Head brewery in Halifax, which produces Webster's and Wilson's litters as well as Foster's and Molson lager. Also to close is the Homebrewery in Nottingham, which brews Home Ales and Matthew Brown beer.

The Fountain Head brewery, which will close by October, has been making beer since 1828 and employed 184 people. Nottingham's Homebrewery, which will be a phased closure, has been brewing local ales since 1875. The remainder of the redundancies will be made at 13 distribution depots that will also close.

The company said: "It is said,

particularly as these are long-standing industrial locations with a strong tradition and heritage. But the beer industry in 1996 is very different to what it was in the middle of the 19th century."

However, the Labour Party immediately criticised the job losses, which include 250 in the Rushcliffe constituency of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke. Ian McCartney, the shadow employment secretary, said: "These employees are the latest innocent victims of the merger mania running riot through Britain's boardrooms. It is a calamity that such a successful company can blight the lives of so many of its local employees."

The redundancies are part of a radical restructuring at Scottish Courage, Scottish & Newcastle's newly created beer division. In a move designed to streamline production, distribution and sales it is reducing its number of depots from 41 to 28.

The company said the cuts would yield annual savings of £75m. The company has al-

ready announced £150m of provisions to cover the restructure. This includes £80m in cash and an asset write-down of £70m.

In future S&N's brewing will be concentrated at seven sites in Edinburgh, Newcastle, Tadcaster, Manchester, Masham, Bristol and Reading. Home Ales will be produced by Mansfield Breweries in North Nottinghamshire. The brewing of Webster's and Wilson's will be transferred to other sites.

Last month Scottish & Newcastle reported interim profits that were at the lower end of expectations. Pre-tax profits rose from £145m to £154m. The company announced then that it would be closing breweries but refused to be drawn on which might go. Some analysts speculated that as many as four might close.

On sales of £300m Courage contributed profits of £9m to group operating profits for the 11 weeks following the takeover. Analysts are forecasting group profits of £312m for the full year.

## Pet food protest goes untamed

Dalgety pet food group yesterday discovered that French workers take a different approach to industrial relations.

Writes Nigel Cope. Threatened with closure, the workforce at the company's plant in Agen, southern France, took two of the plant's management hostage on Monday night to meet their demands that the factory should be kept open.

The company had announced the closure of a plant last week, in a cost-cutting move that will involve 140 job losses. But the Spillers group had bargained without the strong-arm tactics of the French.

Daniel Boulet, the managing director of Spillers Petfood, France, and his human resources director, Bernard Man-

the management duo had to resort to opening a couple of tins of Felix to ease their hunger pangs.

"I think they spent the night sleeping in their chairs and were allowed home in the morning to change their shirts and have a shave," a spokesman for the company said. "They then came back to resume negotiations."

The company added: "We want to come to an amicable arrangement and hope to resume discussions with the Workers Council. But the plant will close."

The local trade unions want the local prefect to appoint a mediator to resolve the conflict at the company.

The striking staff want the closure plan to be withdrawn and demand that Dalgety either modernises the plant or builds a new plant there.

The closure is part of the rationalisation programme that followed Dalgety's acquisition of Quaker's pet food interests in Europe last year.

## Harvey-Jones hit by stroke

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI, has had a minor stroke. The 71-year-old Sir John, whose long hair and kipper ties have become famous to millions of television viewers of his *Troubleshooters* programme, was afflicted just before Christmas. Described by his private office as "a very mild stroke", he has been ordered by doctors to take two months' complete rest.

"He is approaching his 72nd birthday, is supposed to be retired and has been ordered to take a good long rest," a spokeswoman said. He has been working "very, very hard", having completed another series of *Troubleshooters* last year.

Sir John's television appearances typically raise his mailing list threefold to more than 100 letters a week, and he feels obliged to reply to them all and even speaks directly to people who need help, the spokeswoman said. On top of that he has speaking engagements all over the place and other television work which takes him travelling all over the country. He has been told to cut down on the burden of his work when he returns.

Sir John's naval career spanned service in submarines and work as a Russian and then German interpreter. But he spent most of his working life at ICI, culminating in the chairmanship between 1982 and 1987.

Sir John became active in a number of corporate and other roles following his retirement from ICI, including chairmanships of Burns Anderson, an ill-fated network of financial advisers, the Council of the Wildfowl Trust and the board of The Economist. He gave up his last company directorship when he turned 70.



Troubleshooter: Sir John Harvey-Jones

## Thompson to take over Deutsche's global deals

JOHN EISENHAMMER  
Financial Editor

Maurice Thompson is to take over the running of corporate finance at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, plugging a gap left by senior defections to Merrill Lynch late last year. The 38-year-old was the first star poached by DMG from Warburg at the beginning of last year, setting off an avalanche of over 50 executive departures to the German-owned merchant bank.

Mr Thompson will be in charge of a newly created investment banking division, the final stage of the reorganisation of Deutsche Bank and Morgan Grenfell's investment banking operations along global, integrated lines.

The reorganisation was given added urgency by the departure in November of Guy Dawson and Justin Dowling, the number one and two in corporate finance, for Merrill. Long-standing Morgan Grenfell employees, they left

for the US investment bank in the wake of its purchase of the broker Smith New Court, and its stated strategy of expansion to become the leading investment bank in the UK and Europe.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell made its mark last year as the most aggressive of the City banks in its efforts to expand virtually all aspects of its investment banking activities. Deutsche Bank's decision in late 1994 to centre its global investment banking in London

around Morgan Grenfell quickly reaped the benefits of the haemorrhaging of staff from its rival Warburg. In all, DMG took on about 75 new executives last year, as Deutsche pursues its ambition of becoming a leading global investment banking power by the end of the decade.

Maurice Thompson has been in charge of equity capital markets, along with his former Warburg colleague, Michael Cohrs, who was poached at the same time. Equity capital markets,

which focuses on bringing new issues to the market, is the keystone in the arch linking corporate finance and the equity divisions. Mr Cohrs is to continue heading up equity capital markets.

The new investment banking division will regroup all the classic corporate finance activities such as mergers and acquisitions and equity capital markets, adding to it responsibility for relationship management with clients for all the investment bank's products. "The investment

banking division will be responsible for presenting one face to our corporate clients through dedicated coverage. We will also be strengthening industry group expertise as a priority," said Michael Dobson, chief executive.

Mr Thompson originally made his name at Warburg for his handling of BT2 and BT3. Last year was a bumper year for corporate finance, and investment banks expect the takeover and merger activity to continue apace.

STOCK MARKETS						
FTSE 100	Dow Jones	Nikkei	FTSE 250	FTSE 350	FT Small Cap	FT All Share
3710.60	+47.90	+1.3	3720.60	2954.20	3.87	
4037.50	+15.90	+0.4	4080.10	3300.90	3.63	
1840.50	+20.30	+1.1	1848.50	1482.40	3.82	
1978.29	+4.24	+0.2	1993.11	1678.61	3.16	
1814.04	+18.78	+1.0	1821.21	1489.23	3.77	
5035.47	-8.31	-0.2	5216.47	3832.08	2.31	
20567.07	+279.65	+1.4	20669.03	14485.41	0.731	
10671.15	+26.65	+0.3	10671.15	6967.93	3.481	
2376.87	+17.82	+0.8	2376.87	1910.96	1.881	

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES						
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields	1 Month	1 Year
8.50	8.25	7.31	8.50	8.50	7.46	8.64
5.58	5.22	5.89	7.70	6.11	7.79	
0.34	0.60	1.71	4.72			
3.63	3.37	5.82	7.50	6.82		

CURRENCIES						
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	Pound	Dollar	Yesterday	Change
1.57	0.27	1.55	1.5586	-0.71c	1.5582	
1.57	0.27	1.55	1.5586	-0.80c	1.5585	
1.57	0.27	1.55	1.5586	+0.66c	2.3993	
1.57	0.27	1.55	1.5586	unch	145.166	
1.57	0.27	1.55	1.5586	unch	88.1	

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All the hype that surrounded what were supposed to have been some of the sexiest investment prospects of the 1990s has come to nought.

## Cable operators bury their heads in the sand

Both as a business and an investment, Britain's nascent cable TV industry is proving little short of a disaster. Things may change, but right now our main cable companies are failing to deliver the penetration rates promised at the time of flotation, or the financial performance to match. All the hype that surrounded what were supposed to have been some of the sexiest investment prospects of the 1990s has come to nought.

What's gone wrong? The US and Canadian experience with cable stocks was vastly different. As operators across the pond built out their networks and added subscribers, investors got rich on the ride. In the UK, returns have been risible. They look even worse when set next to an otherwise rising stock market.

The answer is threefold. The first problem has been in marketing. Cable companies have generally been managed at the top by American executives who know more about digging up streets and connecting the local loop to the neighbourhood network than they do about selling Britons on the advantages of cable. Only in recent months have a few of the operators brought on marketing people with real ability, and many of these still lack acumen on the doorstep, where it really counts.

A few figures tell the tale. The industry as a whole is well on the way to building out the planned networks, having laid sufficient cable to pass 5 million homes. But the penetration rate is a measly 20 per cent industry-wide. That means only one in five who could actually take up the service has done so. Most of these, moreover, have taken the service not for its underlying *raison d'être*, cable TV, but because it offers cheaper telecommunications than BT.

That brings us to the second problem. Cable has not been able to differentiate itself from other providers of telephone services and entertainment. BT is a formidable competitor, true. But cable ought to be able to make much of its David status to BT's Goliath, offering better service, lower prices and more flexibility. That might be easier once number portability is introduced, allowing BT customers to keep their own numbers when they switch, but nothing the cable industry has done so far gives much faith in its ability to profit from this important concession.

When it comes to programming, cable companies have performed lamentably. It is almost as if TV and entertainment is no more than an afterthought. There is little if any of the interactive services promised by the information age and, as for TV, hardly anything the punters can't get elsewhere (on "free" television, or on Rupert Murdoch's satellite service). Why shell out £15 a month for cable TV if it cannot offer you anything?

Cable has of course come up against a formidable competitor in the form of Mr Murdoch. His stranglehold on subscription TV, ranging from dominance of sports and Hollywood film to the technology used to scramble and unscramble pay-TV signals, is so tight few can take him on. As a result, the two biggest cable operators, Telewest and Nynex CableComm, have given in, agreeing long-term supply arrangements with Mr Murdoch's BSkyB to ensure a steady supply of quality programming. Needless to say, nobody makes much of a margin off Mr Murdoch.

The smaller operators have responded by complaining to the regulators, claiming that BSkyB enjoys an unfair advantage. While they could make some progress with the Office of Fair Trading, now investigating BSkyB's terms of supply to the cable industry, merely complaining won't be enough. The industry needs to band together, helping to finance new sources of cable-exclusive programming to compete with Mr Murdoch's offerings. That does not look like happening, however, until TeleWest frees itself from the iron grip of TCI, which for the time being remains a commercial ally of Mr Murdoch.

Investor in cable can only hope that the economics of the industry will cause the long-heralded consolidation to occur quickly. Right now, there are too many small operators running too many tiny franchises. If, as many analysts expect, six to eight large

companies end up dominating the market, there may be more room for economies of scale, bigger budgets for programme acquisition and keener marketing campaigns. From the investors' point of view, the best returns could be had from those companies on the receiving end of the consolidation. Sadly, that excludes the listed companies, which are much more likely to be predators than prey.

### Tosh high on the menu in Forte takeover battle

An awful lot of nonsense is being written about Granada's £3.5bn bid for Forte as the battle approaches what looks destined to be the traditional nail-biting finish. None more astonishing, however, than yesterday's leader in the *London Evening Standard*. Since this presumably reflects the view from inside the crumbling walls of fortress Forte, it bears some repeating.

Granada's bid is described as a piece of "commercial vandalism". Its purpose is characterised as self-aggrandisement by Gerry Robinson, Granada's boss, while the outcome, the newspaper laments, will be decided by a small group of rich City professionals (the Carol Galleys of this world) with only the short-term financial interests of their clients at heart. What's good for British catering industry goes by the board while there is not a scintilla of evidence to

suggest that a Granada takeover will benefit hotel guests or motorway service users. What tosh. The idea of Forte as lone defender of standards in British catering and hotel keeping is as ludicrous as it is mistaken. Why even the City and Business Editor of the *Independent* can produce a better fry-up than Little Chef. But even if you happen to like Forte's particular style of food and beds, as many apparently do, nobody could surely support the idea of Forte being afforded some kind of special protection from those evil money men in the City. Even Tony Blair's stakeholder economy might have some difficulty with that.

Hotel and catering is like any other business; those who don't deliver the goods find their customers go elsewhere. The City's problem with Forte is that rightly or wrongly it believes Forte has served its customers and shareholders poorly in recent years. The free market is a harsh task master and doesn't always get it right, but until someone comes up with a credible alternative, it is the best safeguard we have of efficient, value-for-money service.

So, please, no waterworks for the grand old name of Forte. If City fund managers get it wrong over Forte, backing Granada's break-up bid when the best course would have been to give Forte a second chance, it will be they who lose most. What they see is an opportunity to get out of a poorly performing investment at a reasonable price. Who can blame them for that?

## Granada raids Forte shares

MATHEW HORSMAN

Granada yesterday bet almost £400m that it would win the acrimonious battle for Forte, the hotels group. Around mid-morning it waded into the stock market snapping up 9.2 per cent of its prey.

The manoeuvre was seen by analysts as further indication that the television and leisure company was poised to clinch the battle.

One analyst said: "With the shares now held by institutions friendly to Granada, this looks like the bid is pretty much decided." Mercury Asset Management, which holds 15 per cent of Forte, is believed to be preparing to tender its shares to Granada. Other institutional shareholders were last night also leaning towards accepting the hostile offer.

Forte dismissed the share purchase, calling it a "desperate attempt to restore momentum to its misguided bid." Sir Rocco Forte, the chief executive, said: "Granada has yet again shown its true colours by

favouring certain shareholders over others."

But Granada denied that it had given preference to certain buyers, claiming that its was "an open offer, and no one was given a privileged position."

Analysts said only a radical move by Forte would now allow the company to escape with its independence intact. Among the possible last-minute defence strategies, the company

was believed to be discussing the sale of one or more "trophy" hotels and to be holding out for a higher offer from Whitbread for its restaurants and budget hotels businesses, which the brewer has contracted to buy for £1.05bn if the Granada bid fails.

Analysts said a higher bid would be hard to achieve, as Whitbread would have to convince its shareholders that a premium offer made sense.



Seeking support: Sir Anthony Tennant (left), Forte's new non-executive chairman, and John Hoerner, now non-executive director

Yesterday's dawn raid had been expected to accompany the unveiling of Granada's increased offer last week, but failed to materialise. Under Takeover Panel rules, Granada is allowed to buy up to 9.9 per cent of Forte shares, at prices up to but not exceeding the value of its cash-and-shares offer of 36p.

It can make additional purchases of up to a total of 29.9 per cent of Forte's shares at prices no higher than its all-cash offer of 36p.

A Granada adviser confirmed that the company had stopped short of buying the total amount available to it. "We wanted to leave ourselves some flexibility for the future."

According to sources, some of Forte's traditional institutional supporters were among those shareholders selling out yesterday, as volumes soared to more than 160 million. Market-makers and arbitrageurs were also among the sellers yesterday, according to dealers.

Separately, the Department of Trade and Industry con-

firmed yesterday that Granada would have to sell Forte's motorway services areas, branded as Welcome Break, if its bid succeeded, and said it would accept an undertaking to that effect in lieu of a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Granada's chief executive, Gerry Robinson, said: "We said at the outset that we recognised the potential competition issues involved and we therefore volunteered to dispose of all of Forte's motorway service areas."

Following Monday's announcement that Sir Rocco would split the roles of chairman and chief executive, Forte yesterday appointed John Hoerner, chief executive of Burton Group, as non-executive director. Sir Anthony Tennant's appointment as non-executive chairman was announced on Monday.

Following yesterday's hectic trading, Granada closed up 23p at 693p, just below its share price prior to launching the bid in November. Forte closed 14.5p higher, at 380.5p.

## Peoples Phone pulls float after slow Christmas

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

Peoples Phone, the high street mobile telephone company, has pulled its planned flotation on the London Stock Exchange after a disappointing Christmas.

The company, founded by Charles Wigoder in 1988, said market sentiment had been hit by poor trading conditions in the UK mobile phone sector in the run-up to Christmas.

Peoples Phone, which is advised by Barclays de Zoete Wedd and UBS, is one of many companies that act as "middle-men" between network operators, such as Cellnet and Vodafone, and consumers who buy the telephones and service. The flotation, originally scheduled for early this year, was expected to value the company at £150m-£170m.

The decision to delay may fuel speculation over the timing of the expected listing of Orange, the newest mobile net-

work operator, owned by Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace. Orange's flotation, which analysts believe will value the company at more than £2bn, is widely expected to go ahead in March.

Peoples Phone said the move to postpone the flotation was also prompted by its own lower-than-expected market share in December, adding that this was likely to have continued into January because of the highly competitive offers available from other retailers.

It added in a statement that the board remained confident about the medium- and long-term growth prospects for the company.

Figures from Vodafone and Cellnet, the main network operators, showed that the total mobile telephone market fell sharply in December compared with the year before, when a record 400,000 people signed up for the networks. There is a view that people are much more

conscious of the on-going cost of using the telephones, the initial price of which can be extremely low.

Adding to the gloom, the Consumers Association recently alleged that many thousands of mobile telephone subscribers are disillusioned, with about one in four regretting the choice they made and many deciding to disconnect.

A report by the association, due in March, will conclude that the industry has failed to give a good enough service for the prices charged and that the networks and equipment are too often unreliable. It will criticise the tendency to lock people into long-term contracts with expensive penalty clauses for those who want to opt out before the agreement expires.

In spite of the setbacks, 1995 was the best year yet for the industry with Vodafone ending the year with over 233 million subscribers and Cellnet only a few tens of thousands behind.

## Fresh Channel 5 bid evidence

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

The row over the controversial Channel 5 auction last night threatened to intensify, as fresh evidence came to light of possible irregularities in the award of Britain's last terrestrial television licence.

On the eve of this morning's High Court hearing on the contentious award, it emerged that the winning bidders for the dis-

**The bid timetable**  
May 2: Bids deposited with ITC  
May 14: ITC asks Channel 5 for funding arrangements  
May 14: All four bidders cleared by ITC staff on quality grounds  
May 15: Channel 5  
Broadcasting confirms revised funding arrangements  
May 14: Leading bidder UKTV withdrawn on financial grounds  
May 15: UKTV and Virgin bids withdrawn on quality grounds  
May 17: Award to Channel 5  
Broadcasting announced

puted licence agreed to up their financial commitment by £100m four months after the final applications were due in May. The information was contained in affidavits and documents scheduled to be presented in the High Court today.

Virgin TV, the losing bidder, which saw its own application for the licence turned aside on quality grounds, will argue that

the revised funding offered by the winning consortium, Channel 5 Broadcasting, constituted a material change, and was against the terms of the licence process.

According to a shareholder agreement dated mid-September, Pearson, MAI, CIT and Warburg Pincus agreed to provide additional funding to cover the "worst-case" scenario of their bid to run Britain's last new terrestrial television service.

The revised financing arrangements were made after the Independent Television Commission, the regulating body responsible for awarding the licence, wrote two letters to Channel 5 Broadcasting asking for clarification of its funding for the channel. Following receipt of the second letter, the Pearson-led consortium agreed to add £100m to the £200m it had set aside to fund the channel's launch and development.

The ITC commissioners thereafter rejected the advice of their staff, and failed two bidders, Virgin TV and UKTV, on quality grounds. UKTV, which bid the most for the licence, £36m, was backed by the Canadian broadcaster CanWest and SelecTV, the independent production company.

Virgin TV will argue in the High Court today that the Pearson-led consortium was given an unfair advantage over other bidders, because it was invited to make a "material alteration" in its bid. Virgin TV was given leave to seek judicial review.

### IN BRIEF

#### BZW takes Salomon's Karat

BZW, the investment bank, has hired David Karat from Salomon Brothers to head its new global corporate finance group responsible for financial institutions. Mr Karat, who was head of UK corporate finance at Salomon Brothers, has been appointed managing director and co-head of the new group with BZW's Henry Tillman. The group is to develop relationships with the big banks and insurance companies.

#### Ssang Yong buys stake in Caspian

Ssang Yong Investments and Securities Co of Korea has taken an initial 12 per cent stake in the enlarged capital of Caspian, the emerging markets investment bank recently set up by Christopher Heath. Focused on Asia and Latin America, Ssang Yong and Caspian have set up a strategic relationship in broking, research, capital markets and risk management.

#### M&G to hold course despite departure

M&G, one of Britain's largest retail fund managers, said there was to be no change of strategic direction following the departure of Anthony Shearer, the chief operating officer. M&G blamed the departure on a personality clash with David Morgan, the managing director. M&G has suffered lately from a relatively poor fund performance.

#### Renwick to chair Save and Prosper

Sir Robin Renwick is to take over as chairman of Save and Prosper, the unit trust arm of Flemings, the merchant bank, on 1 April on the retirement of Charles Numley.

#### Boeing and McDonnell shares suffer

Boeing and McDonnell Douglas saw their share values slip in New York yesterday on reports that they had abandoned talks on a possible merger. Sources suggested that the negotiations had been scuppered by disagreements both on the price tag sought by McDonnell Douglas and on the eventual distribution of top jobs. In morning trading yesterday, Boeing's share price dipped to \$76 from \$77 at the start of the day and shares of McDonnell Douglas were down \$1.75 to \$90.25.

#### EC approves Lufthansa-SAS alliance

The European Commission said it had approved the alliance between Deutsche Lufthansa AG and Scandinavian Airlines System, subject to conditions on slots, frequencies and marketing agreements.

## SIB under attack on pensions

MIC CICUTTI

The City's top financial watchdog came under attack yesterday from the Labour Party and the Consumers' Association for dragging its heels over the pensions mis-selling review, leaving hundreds of thousands of savers without compensation so far.

They said that, despite an urgent review into the mis-selling of personal pensions ordered by the Securities and Investments Board 15 months ago, work was many months behind schedule. Sir Andrew Large, chairman

of the SIB, yesterday blamed a combination of computer glitches and legal action against regulators for the debacle.

He claimed that after some delays the process was back on track. "Neither we nor investors will be satisfied until redress has been given to all those to whom it is due," Sir Andrew added.

But the SIB, which published a progress report into the pensions review yesterday, was criticised by Labour's City spokesman, Alistair Darling. Mr Darling said: "Blaming the delays on computer software

isn't good enough. The regulators must break free from the interests of the trade and act for the public good."

Kate Scribbins, head of the money group at the Consumers' Association, added: "SIB set its own timetable and has been unable to meet the first of its deadlines. We are little further down the road of redress for those who have been mis-sold pensions than before this exercise began."

The regulator's progress report follows a paper from the SIB in November 1994, which said up to 1.5 million people

may have been mis-sold a personal pension.

Last year, all the junior regulators were told to deal with the most urgent 350,000 cases by 31 December.

Some watchdogs, including the fund managers' regulator, Imro, have now completed a large part of the review.

But the main financial services regulator, the Personal Investment Authority, has seen its own efforts stalled by legal action and a longstanding row with indemnity insurers, which must foot the compensation bill.

## Can our Business Deposit rates match the 'Big Four' banks?

Bank	% Gross rate
The Co-operative Bank	3.93
Barclays	3.00
Lloyds	3.45
Hibernia	3.22
Nat West	2.875

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£250,000+	4.94	5.75	6.00

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\*A comparison of similar accounts from major High Street Banks on 4th January 1996. The interest rates quoted are gross (ie before deduction of tax) and current at time of going to press, but may vary. Interest is calculated daily and paid half yearly. Co-operative Bank plc, registered address, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M4D 4EP.



*Simon Pincombe* CITY-PEAK

Sex-change economist presents a revised figure

▲ LU North ▲

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# market report/shares

## Prices soar on interest rate hopes and takeover talk

MARKET REPORT  
JOHN SHEPHERD



most of the session. Longer dated gilt-edged stocks climbed three quarters of a point, making a two-day gain of around one-and-a-half points. Optimism over interest rates was buoyed when Michael Heseltine let slip that today's unemployment statistics would show the 28th consecutive monthly fall.

Some traders were betting on the outside chance that this morning's meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England might yield a quarter point cut in rates. Most, however, predicted that the Chancellor was unlikely to pre-empt a move by the Bundesbank,

which meets tomorrow, and would wait until next month before lowering rates.

A smattering of takeover gossip, noticeably absent on Monday, helped keep the party going. Zeseca leapt 43p to £12.91 as bid rumours resurfaced.

Analysts at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull said that if a bid materialised for Zeseca it should be around £15 a share. The name of Roche of Switzerland was again being touted as the most likely to mount a bid. Glaxo rose 17p to 902p with Hoechst turning positive on the stock.

Continued bid speculation pushed World of Leather a fur-

ther 9p higher to 79p. DFS Furniture, steady at 399p, and Carpentier, also unchanged at 442p, are both being tipped as suitors.

Lloyds Chemists climbed 16p to 291p as rumours resurfaced that a predator was lurking in the wings. The speculative list of bidders includes Asda, a penny better at 114.5p, and Unilever, off 1p to 249p.

Composite insurers were lively as thoughts turned to possible consolidation in the sector. Guardian Royal Exchange closed 13.5p higher at 269.5p, Sun Alliance increased 13p to 379p and Royal Insurance added 9p to 395p.

Allied Domecq was again in demand, finishing 6p higher at 549p with investors becoming increasingly convinced that the disposal of its half-share in the Carlsberg Tønder brewing venture was drawing near. Beas, up 11p to 727p, and Whitbread, 4p firmer at 680p, are the

favourite candidates to strike a deal with Allied.

Elsewhere in drinks, Scottish & Newcastle eased 1p to 608p as it unveiled its long-awaited rationalisation of its brewing business following last summer's purchase of Courage. Poor results from Remy unsettled one of its main shareholders, Highland Distilleries, off 4p to 336p.

The day's casualty list included Sims Foods, down 5p to 28p on yet another profits warning, and Mersey Docks and Harbour, 14p to 391p on worries that industrial unrest could cost the company contracts with shipping lines.

First Leisure slipped 7p to 368p ahead of today's full year results, which analysts predict will produce taxable profits of between £9m and £41m. There was a mild rumour that the group may announce further expansion of its health and fitness business.

Memory Corporation, traded on AIM, is rumoured to be on the verge of clinching a trading deal with the mighty Sanitum Corporation of Japan. The deal is said to involve repairing and upgrading rejected D-Ram computer chips which manufacturers will then resell to customers in the Far East. Shares in Memory were 5p higher at one stage before closing unchanged at 395p.

Shares in Scotia Holdings, the pharmaceuticals company, climbed 20p to 583p late in the day amid rumours of a pending announcement on the possibility of finding an alternative use for one of its drugs. Several delayed trades at prices up to 592p were registered after the close. The alternative use, according to one trader, was for treatment of multiple sclerosis.

### DATA BANK

FT-SE 100  
3710.6 +47.9  
FT-SE 250  
4037.5 +15.9  
FT-SE 350  
1840.5 +20.3  
SEAQ VOLUME  
901.9m shares,  
32,161 bargains  
Gifts Index  
95.98 +0.28

### SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Share prices soared yesterday, recording their best one-day gains for three months. Expectations of further cuts in interest rates and takeover rumours were the main driving forces.

The FT-SE 100 index surged 47.9 points to close at 3,710.6 and tantalisingly near the all-time high of 3,720.61 hit a week ago. Most of the trading action was among the leading stocks, although second-liners recorded reasonable gains and the FT-SE 250 index advanced 15.9 points to 4,037.5.

Share trading volumes were high despite a swiftly executed and successful market raid on Forte stock by Granada. Total volume topped 900 million, of which 163 million was in Forte shares alone.

Investors side-stepped the lacklustre overnight performance on Wall Street, and share prices in London starting rising steadily from the opening bell.

The bullish tone for the session was firmly established in mid-morning trading when Granada gave the go-code for Hoare Govett and BZW to mount an assault on Forte's shares at up to 384p each.

Many of Forte's institutional shareholders found the offer too good to refuse, and Granada was soon sitting on more than 9 per cent of the hotel company's shares. Forte finished 14.5p higher at 380.5p, while Granada's shares climbed 23p to 693p - their highest level since the television company fired off its takeover bid in late November.

The final count put total turnover in Forte at 163 million. Dealers said the bid pendulum was swinging increasingly in Granada's favour, although several continued to predict a close finish when hostilities cease next Tuesday.

Prospects for cheaper money, though, held centre stage for

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Barclays	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
HSBC	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
London & Lancashire	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Midland	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Natwest	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Paragon	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Prudential	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Santander	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
TSB	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Yorkshire	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
First Direct	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First National	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First State	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First Tower	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First Union	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First Western	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First Yorkshire	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First Zenith	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First Zephyr	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
First Zircon	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of Scotland	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Ireland	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Montreal	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of New York	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Paris	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Spain	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Tokyo	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of West	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of World	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Asia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of China	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of India	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Japan	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Korea	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Russia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of South Africa	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Sweden	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Switzerland	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Taiwan	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Thailand	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of Vietnam	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Yugoslavia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Zaire	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Zimbabwe	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Angola	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Benin	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Botswana	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Brunei	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Cambodia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Cameroon	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of Congo	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Cuba	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Cyprus	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Denmark	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Ecuador	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Egypt	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of El Salvador	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Ethiopia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Finland	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of France	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of Germany	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Greece	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Guatemala	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Hong Kong	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Hungary	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Iceland	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of India	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Indonesia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Ireland	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Italy	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of Japan	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Korea	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Kuwait	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Laos	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Lebanon	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Liberia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Lithuania	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Luxembourg	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Malawi	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Malaysia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of Mexico	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Myanmar	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Nepal	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Nicaragua	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Norway	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Oman	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Pakistan	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Panama	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Paraguay	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Peru	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of Romania	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Russia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Saudi Arabia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Senegal	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Sierra Leone	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Singapore	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Slovakia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Slovenia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of South Africa	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Spain	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div
Bank of Sweden	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Switzerland	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Taiwan	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Thailand	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Timor	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Tonga	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Trinidad	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Tunisia	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Turkey	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00
Bank of Uganda	100	449.5	0	4.8	17.00

Bank	Share	Price	Chg	Yld	Div



STERLING				DOLLAR				D-WARF	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot		
US	13356	14-2	34-31	1000	0-3	0-5	05681		
Canada	22224	14-8	35-37	13655			05375		
Germany	23425	59-32	151-151	14575	35-37	65-64	10000		
France	76972	55-38	333-314	15713	55-72	135-135	34789	10277	
Italy	74822	77-42	357-358	15713	47-46	134-134	10277	10277	
Japan	16210	65-51		10559			05681		
ECU	4930	5-7	37-38	12676	67-47	150-150	23582		
Denmark	12920	14-10	37-37	21810	49-48	125-125	34546		
Belgium	28967	59-55	375-383	15550	37-38	55-51	10639		
Netherlands	23183	83-54	100-100	15820		8-10	04359		
Ireland	18935	52-55	344-236	53380	35-10	100-100	04359		
Norway	10366	127-5	145-151	22259	55-55	143-143	04359		
Sweden	12924	55-52	37-37	15781	55-55	143-143	04359		
Switzerland	20004	76-70	215-254	17094	19-31	54-55	08225		
Australia	23659	9-25	40-40	13446	2-42	45-55	08225		
Hong Kong	10000	57-57	79-79	12332			08225		
New Zealand	30493			10550			10254		
South Africa	22232	23-37	87-112	13052			25791		
South Arabia	57704	0-0	0-0	14255	2-3	103-88	05780		

7-10-1950

Foreign Exchange Rates				DOLLAR				D-MARK			
STERLING				Spot				Spot			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	13366	16-2	24-31	1000	2-0	0-5	0581	US	0581	0-5	0581
Canada	12124	16-2	50-57	13663	2-3	2-1	67-64	10000	10000	67-64	10000
France	22465	16-2	50-57	14076	2-3	2-1	67-64	13663	13663	67-64	13663
Germany	76970	16-2	50-57	15763	2-3	2-1	67-64	14076	14076	67-64	14076
Italy	26612	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	15763	15763	67-64	15763
Japan	8210	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
EU	1269	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Belgium	4010	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Denmark	5687	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Finland	5170	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
France	19925	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Germany	9283	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Italy	26612	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Japan	8210	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
EU	1269	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Belgium	4010	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Denmark	5687	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Finland	5170	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
France	19925	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Germany	9283	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Italy	26612	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Japan	8210	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
EU	1269	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Belgium	4010	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Denmark	5687	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Finland	5170	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
France	19925	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Germany	9283	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Italy	26612	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Japan	8210	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
EU	1269	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763
Belgium	4010	16-2	50-57	16763	2-3	2-1	67-64	16763	16763	67-64	16763



# Prime time spot for Treacy on Danoli

## Racing

GREG WOOD

Ask most punters in a British betting shop who Tommy Treacy is and their best guess might be "Dick's brother". By the time of the Festival at Cheltenham in March, though, the 20-year-old jockey may be considerably more familiar, as the regular partner of Ireland's favourite hurdler, Danoli.

Tom Treacy, Danoli's trainer, announced yesterday that Treacy will be in the saddle when the gelding, not seen on a race-track since suffering a life-threatening injury when winning the Aintree Hurdle in April, contests the Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on Sunday.

Danoli, who has steered Treacy to all his greatest victories, told Treacy yesterday that he will be unable to maintain the partnership, and Treacy quickly turned to Treacy to take his place.

Though he has had just four rides in Britain, Tommy Treacy is one of the rising stars of Irish jumping. He finished sixth in the riders' championship last season and already has 23 winners to his credit this term. He has also ridden Danoli twice before, recording a victory in a minor hurdle race and the place in a competitive Leopardstown event.

"I was waiting to hear from Adrian Maguire and I didn't want to let the place in the competitive Leopardstown event go," Treacy said.

Richard Edmondson, Danoli's owner, said: "I was waiting to hear from Adrian Maguire and I didn't want to let the place in the competitive Leopardstown event go."

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: No Pain No Gain  
(Windsor 3.40)  
NB: King Lucifer  
(Nottingham 1.50)

hearing from him at all," Treacy said yesterday. "Tommy knows the horse, and he's a good rider, so it's a relief, which is also a help."

Treacy should also have at least one more chance to fill in

any gaps in his knowledge of Danoli after Sunday's race. "The first run will probably tell us a lot," Treacy said, "but we're using it more as a nice introduction, we're not going to kill him. He'd have another run before Cheltenham, and he'll be a different horse in his next run, it always takes three or four races to get him right. That's why we have to run him on Sunday, other than that we wouldn't."

Clearly, Treacy will be content simply to see Danoli finish Sunday's race safely, but while victory is unlikely, for the hurdler's many followers it will be an unexpected pleasure to see him

running at all. Those who feared that he might never compete again following his knee injury at Liverpool were underestimating their hero, however.

"It's still a day-to-day job," Treacy said, "and there's very few that come back and race after an injury like that. But he's determined himself to come back one way or the other. He doesn't give in."

Treacy was predictably delighted by yesterday's booking. "You'll certainly be seeing me at the Festival in March, anyway," he said, "but now, please God, I might be on Danoli."

With Monteludo and Hotel



Foley: 'nice introduction'

"He is very well indeed," Treacy said of the gelding's impressive performance in the Festival Bumper. "He has been schooled intensively and jumps very well." Dato Star is currently available at 25-1 for the Champion Hurdle.

# Confusion surrounds Middlesex Sevens

## Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Rugby League's participation in the Middlesex Sevens is under threat because of the Rugby Football Union's backlash against professionalism.

The League had been due to decide this week which of its clubs, probably Wigan or St Helens, would take up an invitation to the event in May.

"But we have now written to the organisers asking them to clarify the situation, in view of the meeting at the weekend," the League's spokesman, Paul Harrison, said.

It could be that a club from the other side no longer be wowed at the Sevens now that union's acceptance of professionalism is in doubt, the League believes.

There is also a growing feeling in League circles that a weekend of the much-vaunted new Super League should not be disrupted for the sake of a tournament in another sport.

Sale, who has failed to sign Salford's captain, David Young, have had talks with Widnes about borrowing several of their players, including another Welshman, John Devereux.

Widnes say that they have no objections to loan arrangements in taking Sale players on a similar, short-term basis.

In another cross-code development, Leeds rugby league and rugby union clubs have scheduled a joint announcement for 30 January. Everything points to the 15-a-side operation becoming the winter tenants of Headingley, but the cross-pollination may go beyond that, with the Leeds rugby league captain, Garry Schofield, among the players interested in having a crack at the other code.

The Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round tie between Castleford and St Helens will be televised on 27 January. The other ties will be the following day, with the possible exception of West Hull. The amateurs' match against York may be switched to the Friday or Saturday to allow them to play at Hull's Boulevard ground.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

### Football

7.30 unless stated

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)

Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)

Sheffield Wednesday v Arsenal (7.45)

Stockport v Everton (7.45)

Wolverhampton v Watford (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League

PREMIER DIVISION

East Fife v Stirling Albion

THIRD DIVISION

Livingston v Colinton

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)

Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)

Sheffield Wednesday v Arsenal (7.45)

Stockport v Everton (7.45)

Wolverhampton v Watford (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League

PREMIER DIVISION

East Fife v Stirling Albion

THIRD DIVISION

Livingston v Colinton

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)

Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)

Sheffield Wednesday v Arsenal (7.45)

Stockport v Everton (7.45)

Wolverhampton v Watford (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League

PREMIER DIVISION

East Fife v Stirling Albion

THIRD DIVISION

Livingston v Colinton

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)

Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)

Sheffield Wednesday v Arsenal (7.45)

Stockport v Everton (7.45)

Wolverhampton v Watford (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League

PREMIER DIVISION

East Fife v Stirling Albion

THIRD DIVISION

Livingston v Colinton

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS

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## sport

# Lawmakers to take up the attack

Rugby Union  
STEVE BALE

Rugby union's international law-makers will decisively shift the balance from defence to attack if they adopt a proposal at this month's International Board annual meeting in London to keep all 16 forwards bound into a scrum until it ends.

This is potentially as important a law-change as there has been in two decades - including the controversial amendment of the ruck-and-maul law in 1992 - and comes from New Zealand with the express intention of eradicating midfield defensive congestion by keeping flankers elsewhere.

If that alters the nature of wing-forward play, that is the only change of more than cosmetic importance being considered by the IB, which is anxious to resist the pressure under the new professional dispensation for "entertainment" at the expense of the game's most intrinsic features.

Keith Rowlands, the IB secretary, briefed the rugby press for the last time before his retirement at board headquarters in Bristol yesterday, and as he picked out this one prospective amendment it can be assumed it has wide support. "It would be an enormous and fundamental change to the playing of the game," he said.

As the IB is considering sitting itself "offshore" - probably in Dublin, Monte Carlo or Switzerland - for tax reasons, its days in Bristol appear numbered. Another change means that, as of the forthcoming annual meeting, the chairman of the board will be appointed by election and not by Buggins' turn as previously.

Rowlands had ironically comforting words for the Rugby Football Union in its distress at the grassroots uprising which it fears may, if the membership votes to reimpose amateurism, have to mean its withdrawal from the IB. "The

game is not a professional game," he said. "In our game there may be only 12 or 14 unions who pay people or allow people to be paid."

"The International Board has put in place regulations that say the game is open. Open is open-ended and therefore if the RFLU was to declare itself an amateur rugby union it would not affect its membership of the International Board, because it would be exactly the same as the Croatian Rugby Union and Japanese Rugby Union and somewhere in the region of 57 rugby unions around the world."

Rowlands was more concerned at the threat to the official game from entrepreneurs such as the Australian Ross Turnbull, who has attempted to buy up leading European players to be the clowns in a rebel circus. "I would have serious concerns that the game worldwide is sufficiently organised or funded to resist serious overtures," he said. "I say that because the game worldwide is seriously underfunded. We are talking about 71 unions, 57 of whom have a major cash problem."

As for the big unions, with some 500 players under contract they are safe for now, but the retiring secretary foresaw further bids from the likes of Turnbull once those contracts ran out. "By then we will be into the next World Cup, playing in which will enhance those players' value."

Rowlands revealed what the Five Nations' Committee has failed to when he stated that referees handling the 10 fixtures in the championship which begins in Paris and Dublin on Saturday will receive £400 each per match, with touch-judges getting £200 each and the reserve touch-judge £100 to establish both pecking-order and incentive. Brian Campsall from Halifax, referee of Ireland v Scotland, and David McHugh from Co Cork (France v England) are the first beneficiaries.



Forward revolutionary: Jean-Claude Skrela has sought to become a steadying influence in the treacherous waters of French rugby

Photograph: Allsport

## Skrela eager to mix realism with flair



Here we go again. Just when things were starting to look promising for French rugby, they go and commit another ritual hara-kiri. Pierre Berbizier was sacked last September, despite his impressive record and the creditable third placing at the World Cup, and the Fédération Française de Rugby is currently involved in yet another virulent public slanging match as sectors of the French press, fanned by the explosive revelations in the daily *L'Equipe* bay for the blood of its hapless president, Bernard Lapasset.

Jean-Claude Skrela, France's new coach, however feigns the naïve indifference of a newcomer to these political shenanigans, and has deliberately steered clear of any involvement. "The only thing that interests me is what happens on the field of play. I just hope we are strong enough to rise above all this," he says. Indeed if Skrela has any political thoughts at all they are more concerned with the darkening gloom and ever-growing pessimism which currently pervade French society in general, the depth of emo-

tion in the public mourning of President Mitterrand aside, public morale remains severely shaken by the disruptive strikes in December and the threat of more to come.

The French XV has, according to Skrela, its role to play as an antidote. "In this current context it is important to give people a little pleasure. It's the least we can do. If the players themselves experience pleasure on the field they will transmit it to the spectators and to all those watching on TV."

Called in to take over the reigns of the French team last autumn, Skrela has had a dream debut. Only weeks after his appointment France won the Latin Cup, comprehensively outclassing Argentina in the final at Buenos Aires, while in November in the first Test at Toulouse they stormed to an unexpected victory over New Zealand, before losing a week later. Arguably the most complete game of rugby ever seen at the Parc des Princes, this second Test was a match of such intensity, with the ball in play for a total of 53 minutes (as compared to the average of 26) that it surpassed anything the Five

Nations' Championship has yet produced in Paris. "You wouldn't believe the number of people who stopped me in the street, or who rang me to say how much pleasure they got from that game," says Skrela, noting that France finished the series with five tries against four for the All Blacks. Despite losing 12-37, however, it was as if this thunderous game, the first real challenge of the Skrela era, not only confirmed the Tricolour's world ranking, but also gave France the right to align themselves with the best from the southern hemisphere.

Against England on Saturday, Skrela, a former back row forward who played 46 times for France between 1971 and 78, intends to maintain that standing. Raw-boned and uncompromising, he made a name for himself as a hard-working flanker who was ahead of his time in his fanatical devotion to physical fitness, and if last week's squad

session is an indication, he intends transferring the same fanaticism to his players. His appointment as coach comes as a significant break with a French tradition which has tended to give preference to the personality of celebrated players, rather than coaches with a proven track record. Unlike his three predecessors Jacques Fouroux, Daniel Dubroca, and Berbizier himself, who all jumped directly from player to coach, Skrela can already boast an impressive c.v. as a coach at all levels of the game. As an employee of the Colomiers Town Council he has coached schoolboys since 1970, and has considerable experience coaching First Division club sides, notably at Colomiers, where he was in charge when the FFR called him to the rescue, and Toulouse.

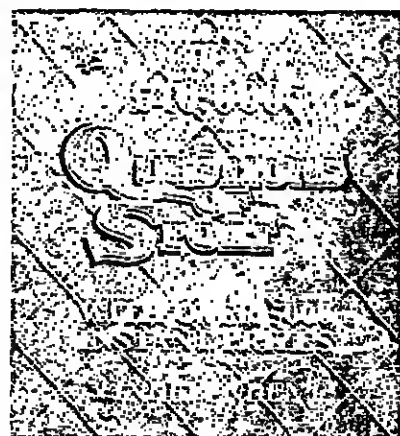
If Skrela's experience meant that he was immediately able to set up systems and routines with the French XV, it also meant there was no delay in hauling over the coals some of the more unruly elements, and eliminating the bad habits carried by some of the newcomers from club rugby into the national side. The off-ball antics of Richard Dourthe against the All Blacks, and the incessant niggling of Toulouse's Philippe Carboneau in the European Cup final against Cardiff cannot have failed to attract the eye of English observers. But at the recent squad session near Toulon, Skrela made a point of singling these players out. Admittedly Skrela has already been prepared to take a number of risks in building his side and it is clear that his strategy is focused more on the long term than on ensuring results in the short term. He had no hesitation, for instance, in blood- ing the two young centres Dourthe (21) and Thomas Castaignède (20) against the All Blacks, nor in taking a gamble on the uncapped Michel Perle to play at loose head against England on Saturday. "My belief is that if these players are not ready now they never will be ready."

Despite the pressure for France to perform on Saturday, and to put an end to seven years of defeat against England in the Championship, Skrela appears adamant that he will not change tactics simply to ensure victory. "If you play a dynamic running style of rugby you expose yourself to certain risks. I don't want to see a French team which is timid, which waits for the opposition to make the play, or until the last minute to score a try," he observes. "My instructions to the players are simply not to be restrictive. We are under no illusions, and we know that England still has a very strong team. They were recently booed by their own crowd so I'm sure they will have something to prove."

So is the well-being of the French public still uppermost in his mind? "Yes. They come to watch us so we must bring them a little happiness. It is part of the role of the French team, and of rugby in general," he says. "But despite all that we still have to win." Skrela might be a philanthropist but he is still a realist at heart.

## Questions of Sport

£40,000 to be won



Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In Saturday's paper, there was a Questions of Sport multi-choice scratch which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000. You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. The card contains eight games so you can play daily through to Friday 19 January. And as well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of £5,000.

### HOW TO PLAY

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Wednesday 17 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Sixteen, either A, B or C in the Q16 column then repeat for Q17 and Q18.

### THE QUESTIONS

Q16 In which country was tennis player Bjorn Borg born?  
A: Finland  
B: Denmark  
C: Sweden

Q17 In which year did Britain win the Olympic hockey gold medal?  
A: 1984  
B: 1988  
C: 1992

Q18 Who is the coach of the South African Test cricket team?  
A: Bob Woolmer  
B: John Lever  
C: Alan Knott

### IMPORTANT

Scratch off ONE letter only for each question. If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by revealing an asterisk.

### HOW TO CLAIM

If you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the newsagents listed below. For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Irish Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm Monday to Saturday. Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Menzies, Forbuys, Martins/RS, McCoil, Dillons, Gibbs, Macs, Superclix, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper Shop. If you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box 60, Burnley, BB10 1SH.

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### SOME OF OUR WINNERS SO FAR:

Derin Cassin from Pwllheli, Wales - £250  
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Maureen Pearson from Horsforth, Leeds - £100  
Roger Bryant from Clayton West, Huddersfield - £100  
Peter Penman from Otley, West Yorks - £50  
Lyn Gray from Gargrave, Nr. Skipton - £25  
David Eaton from Liverpool, Merseyside - £25  
Michael Wright from Wrexham - £25

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Take this coupon to any of the participating Newsagents listed who will give you your prize instantly.

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To the Newsagent: Please check the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for full redemption.

## Cork accepts he must alter his one-day ways

### Cricket

England's management are trying to get another Derbyshire pace man to change the way he bowls - but this time there will be no controversy. As the Devon Malcolm revelations rumbled on in Great Britain, Dominic Cork admitted in Durban yesterday that the England hierarchy are right to order him to make alterations to his approach for one-day games.

At 3-1 down in the seven-match international series against South Africa, which resumes in Durban today with the fifth one-dayer, England's management recognise that they must tighten up in certain areas of their out-crick - not just for the three remaining South African matches but in preparation for next month's World Cup in India and Pakistan.

The England manager, Ray Illingworth, said after England's afternoon net session yesterday that he would be having a separate meeting with the bowlers before tomorrow's match to thrash out problems of inconsistency that have plagued England so far in the one-day series.

He said: "We are going to have a team meeting to go over things in general because we have made hard work for ourselves by going 3-1 down. But I will then be having a meeting with the bowlers on their own because we have to make sure we don't keep giving away runs with wides and no-balls and we have to start concentrating on bowling it into the right areas. We have to start being tuned in."

The 24-year-old Cork, now England's leading bowler,

knows that he carries a lot of responsibility for improving the way England bowl during the crucial first 15 overs of an innings, when only two fielders are allowed outside the inner 30-yard circle.

Cork, like the rest of England's players, is making no comment about the Devon Malcolm affair, but as a close friend of Malcolm's at Derbyshire he did allow himself a smile when asked about his reaction to Illingworth's instructions to change his bowling.

Cork said that the England captain, Mike Atherton, had also sought him out for "a chat" after Sunday's defeat in Pretoria, in which Cork's 10 overs cost 65 runs. "I was starting the ball off too straight, and their batsmen were getting easier shots to play than they should have been at that stage."

"What might be a wicket-taking ball in Test cricket can be hit over the top in these games. You have to try to adjust. It's an intense type of cricket," he said.

There were also problems for the England management on the batting front as Neil Fairbrother, the Lancashire batsman, was ruled out of today's international with a troublesome groin injury, which he suffered during Saturday's defeat in Johannesburg. With everyone else available to play, England were not planning to announce their final XI until just before the start of the day-night contest.

## Malcolm denies race row

Devon Malcolm yesterday denied that his dispute with the England manager, Ray Illingworth, had anything to do with his colour. He was condemned for bringing race into the argument when he asked if he would have been treated the same way if he had been a white bowler. But a statement issued yesterday by his solicitors, Meer Care and Desai, said: "Recent media comment has suggested that Devon Malcolm has accused the tour management of discriminating against him because of his colour."

"Mr Malcolm has not al-

leged that either the TCCB or the tour management discriminated against him on account of race, but felt that he had been treated harshly on tour."

"Devon Malcolm's reference to colour, as reported, was in the context of his trying to understand the reasons for his treatment and was one of several reasons considered by him."

Illingworth said: "I don't think this has affected the team at all. The only person that has been affected is me, and I am very upset. But I have spoken with Lord's and I am sure they will take the necessary action."

## Crowe retires hurt after 77 Tests

Martin Crowe, of New Zealand, has announced his retirement from international cricket because of injury.

Crowe, 33, returned from New Zealand's tour of India in November with injuries to both legs. He was told by selectors he needed to play two domestic matches to prove his fitness before the World Cup but was unable to play even one.

"In the end it's just too painful and too hard to continue at the level that I'd like to play at," Crowe said. "I had no choice at this stage but to stand down."

In 77 Tests, starting in 1981, Crowe scored 3,444 runs, including 17 centuries, at an average of 45.36. He scored more runs and centuries than any other New Zealander.

His 299 against Sri Lanka in 1991 is the highest Test innings by a New Zealander and contributed to a world Test record for a third-wicket partnership of 467 with Andrew Jones.

Crowe captained New Zealand in 16 Tests and in the semi-finals of the 1992 World Cup, when he was named player of the tournament.

For much of the 1990s a recurring injury to his right knee prevented him from playing a full part in New Zealand's Test programme.

Crowe was signed by Somerset in 1987 and scored 1,627 runs in the season at an average of 67.79 before injury forced him to terminate his contract.

Allan Lamb will play one last season for Northamptonshire before retiring from first-class cricket. The 41-year-old relinquished the captaincy at the end of last summer but intends to accept a new one-year contract.



McGibbon: British champion

## British champion is killed

### Skilling

Kirsteen McGibbon, a promising 20-year-old British downhill skier, was killed yesterday when she lost control on an icy section while training in Altenmarkt, Austria.

McGibbon, from Glasgow, in her first season as a member of the British team, died from head injuries and internal bleeding after falling and hitting the safety netting. The death was the first of a British skier in international competition. "From what we know, she hit a major turn which was tricky and lost it," Mike Jardine, the British Ski Federation spokesman, said. McGibbon was taken by helicopter to the Schwabach Hospital near Salzburg where she was pronounced dead.

The accident was on the same World Cup track where the Austrian World Cup skier Peter Wirsberger was killed in a non-competitive skiing accident more than three years ago.

McGibbon, the British downhill champion, fell on her second training run on the course and was part of a 20-strong British team training for the Lowlander Championships - two levels of competition below the World Cup circuit - which is due to start today.

This latest tragedy comes almost exactly two years after the Austrian Ulrike Maier was killed in a fall in a World Cup downhill at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany. The most recent death before that was that of another Austrian, Gerold Reinstadler, in training at Wengen in Switzerland in 1991. There have been 11 connected with racing since 1959.



# Chelsea counting on current form

## Football

Mark Hughes has been told to turn his back on confrontation when Chelsea travel to St James' Park to meet Newcastle in tonight's FA Cup replay.

However, Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, believes that Chelsea's current form, rather than the possible absence of Newcastle's Les Ferdinand, Robert Lee and Steve Howey, could turn the third-round replay the London club's way.

Ferdinand, like Lee, is struggling with Achilles tendon trouble and it could mean the striker misses his first match since moving north for £6m. "We have known that Les has been down to London and seen a couple of specialists in the time Newcastle have been on the road, but you worry about your own situation," said Hoddle, who has appealed against the dismissal of Hughes at Everton on Saturday. Dennis Wise and Hughes, who faces a five-match ban after being booked at Goodison and then sent off for an alleged stamp on David Unsworth, will both be banned for the fourth round at Queen's Park Rangers should Chelsea win.

Wise finally reached 21 points at Everton with his first

caution since the end of October and Hoddle said: "To go that long of time nowadays and not be booked is a feat in itself. You don't have to be a genius to work out that referees are booking more people - and Mark's game is competitive. I wouldn't really want him to change that because the physical side of his play is not dirty."

"He uses his body extremely well to hold off defenders and he takes a hell of a lot of punishment during games. It's maybe a little frayed and a verbal situation that happens when you have these confrontations that he needs to detach himself from."

Everton, the FA Cup holders, face a tough replay at Stockport tonight, and manager Joe Royle has warned his team against complacency. The Second Division side came away from Merseyside with a 2-2 draw and Royle said: "They were terrific at Goodison. Stockport must feel somewhat aggrieved that they have to go to a replay. I hope they've got it in the back of their minds that we can't play that badly again."

"I've been at Edgeley Park on many nights on scouting missions, they'll be up for it and it's not an easy place to go to. It's no foregone conclusion, it's not an easy tie."

One bonus for Royle is that Duncan Ferguson could return to the side after suffering a hamstring injury.

Dave Jones, the Stockport manager, said: "People say we've had our chance, but if we play like we did at Goodison, who knows what might happen? "As a player, I didn't enjoy playing in ties like these and I am sure the Everton lads will feel the same way. I know Joe used to relish the opportunity of taking on the bigger clubs when he was at Oldham, and we certainly can't wait to have another crack at them."

Third Division Hereford are confident of securing victory over Tottenham at White Hart Lane. Steve White, scorer of four goals in Saturday's 5-2 win over Cambridge, said: "We are creating six or seven chances a match. There is no doubt we are still in with a shout."

Graham Turner, the Hereford manager, added: "We know we let them off the hook in the first game, but there is no reason why we can't win it." Sheffield United will have their suspended players, Mark Patterson and David Tuttle, eligible for the game against Arsenal at Bramall Lane. With Steve Bould ruled out by a hamstring injury and Nigel Winterburn suspended, Bruce Rioch names the same Arsenal side on duty for Saturday's 3-2 win at Middlesbrough.

Stuart Pearce, the Nottingham Forest captain, is preparing his team-mates for another tough battle with Stoke. Pearce salvaged a replay for Forest with a late goal at the Victoria Ground after Simon Sturridge had put Stoke in front. Pearce said: "Any one who thinks we've already done the hard work by getting a replay at our place is sadly mistaken. We've still got an awful lot to do to get through this tie."

Manchester City's left-back injury jinx has struck again. Rac Ingram pulled a muscle at Spurs on Saturday and is ruled out of the game against Leicester.

With emergency left-back Ian Brightwell completing a two-match ban, Alan Ball is left without cover in the position. The City manager said: "It's very important that we progress in the FA Cup and whoever comes into the position I'm sure will do a good job."

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Griemink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-match suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

## England bring Ince back into the fold

PHIL SHAW

Terry Venables yesterday restored Paul Ince to his first squad of this European Championship year, but still found no place for Matthew Le Tissier.

The 25-man party which will assemble for a "get-together" at Bisham Abbey from next Sunday until the following Thursday includes only one player who has never featured in an England squad. Alan Wright, Aston Villa's left-sided wing-back, fills the vacancy caused by Graeme Le Saux's injury.

Other unexplained omissions of Le Tissier, despite a meeting on Monday between Venables and the Southampton manager, Dave Merrington, confirms that the Channel Islander is highly unlikely to make the final squad of 20. Stan Collymore is also left out, although the neglect of his Liverpool co-striker, Robbie Fowler, is more surprising. Another Villa player, Mark Draper, can count himself unfortunate.

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thoughts," said Venables, who is in Poland today sorting out England's World Cup fixtures. "But he needed time to settle and in the end needed more time than I thought."

At 5ft 4in, Wright may be one of the smallest players to enter the England reckoning in the post-war era. The 24-year-old, capped at schoolboy, youth and Under-21 level, joined Villa for £1m last March after losing his Blackburn place to Le Saux. Ironically, Le Saux's misfortune means Wright now has the opportunity to challenge Stuart Pearce for the left-back spot.

The continued omission of Le Tissier, despite a meeting on Monday between Venables and the Southampton manager, Dave Merrington, confirms that the Channel Islander is highly unlikely to make the final squad of 20. Stan Collymore is also left out, although the neglect of his Liverpool co-striker, Robbie Fowler, is more surprising. Another Villa player, Mark Draper, can count himself unfortunate.

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The Williams driver Damon Hill (above) begins testing at Estoril in Portugal yesterday, while the team's technical advisor, Alain Prost (below right), talks to Hill's new co-driver, the Canadian Jacques Villeneuve (left), and the team manager Craig Pollock

## Schumacher escape

### Motor racing

Michael Schumacher escaped injured yesterday when his Ferrari bounced off a guard rail during a test drive at Fiorano, Italy, at a speed between 60 and 90mph.

Schumacher, the world champion, blamed himself for having forced the pace of the car on a track still covered with frost. The Ferrari 410T2, an old model with a new 10-cylinder engine, suffered damage to its

left suspension system but was immediately repaired, the team said. The German has just joined Ferrari, with the Italian factory bidding to regain its racing glory in Formula One.

The Williams Formula One team have confirmed that the Frenchman Jean-Christophe Boullion will continue as their test driver for the 1996 world championship.

Boullion, 26, combined his Williams duties last year with competing for Sauber, but lost that opportunity when Johnny

Herbert was named Heinz Harald Frentzen's team-mate for this season.

The Oxford-based Frenchman will back up Damon Hill and the Canadian newcomer Jacques Villeneuve in the Williams team, and will test for the first time this year at Estoril in Portugal alongside Villeneuve later this week.

Frank Williams, the team manager, said: "Jean-Christophe did an excellent job during 1995 and we are pleased that he will be continuing as our test driver."



## Olazabal drops out and delays his return

### Golf

The long-awaited return of Jose Maria Olazabal has been delayed still further. The Spaniard, out of action since mid-September because of a foot injury, has withdrawn from next week's Johnnie Walker Classic in Singapore and the Heineken Classic in Perth a week later.

Olazabal's manager, Sergio

Gomez, said yesterday: "Jose Maria's foot is much better and he played 18 holes last Friday. But on Saturday his knees and back were bad. I think it's a side effect of a cold he had and so we've taken the decision to wait a little longer. It would be wrong to come back before he feels confident about his health."

Olazabal, who won the US Masters in 1994 and started having problems at the end of that

season, underwent an operation 12 months ago to shorten the bone in a big toe and then was discovered to have a small tumour between two other toes on the same foot.

There was even more woe for the sponsors of next week's competition when the European No 1, Colin Montgomerie, declared himself a virtually certain non-starter because his wife is due to give birth.

Montgomerie and Olazabal may not now be seen in action until the Dubai Desert Classic in March and that could also be the first appearance this year of Seve Ballesteros, whose loss of form led to him taking a five-month break from the game after the Ryder Cup.

The bees that attacked the US PGA Tour player Keith Fergus and his caddie during the Nortel Open in Tucson, Arizona

last Saturday were the Africanised type sometimes called "killer bees", an expert has revealed. Fergus, who was practicing on the driving range about an hour after the third round, was stung 10 to 15 times. His caddie, Artie Granfield, jumped into a lake to escape bees that stung him 50 to 100 times. Two Arizona residents died in October after being stung by Africanised bees.

## Sri Lanka reach the finals

### Cricket

Sri Lanka booked their passage to the World Series Finals with only two balls to spare after a stunning contribution by the opener Romesh Kaluwitharana to their three-wicket victory over Australia in Melbourne yesterday.

The diminutive wicketkeeper raced to the third-fastest half-century in the competition's 16-year history as Sri Lanka overhauled their opponents at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

In reply to the home side's commanding 242 for 4 in 50 overs, Sri Lanka scored 246 for 7 to the delight of a small but vocal group of supporters in a crowd of more than 40,000.

The Sri Lankan off-spinner Kumar Dharmasena edged a delivery from the fast bowler Glenn McGrath to the third man boundary to set off wild celebrations.

Kaluwitharana, thriving in

his new role after being promoted from the middle order in the latter stages of the triangular competition, set up the victory by hitting 74 runs from 69 balls.

The victory ensured the Sri Lankans a place in the best-of-three-finals series against the competition's hosts, Australia, at the expense of West Indies.

With his side facing a rate of almost five runs an over to win, Kaluwitharana's boldness dramatically eased the pressure on the later batsmen. His efforts overshadowed the Australian all-rounder Steve Waugh's first century for his country in a limited-overs international.

"This win is perhaps our finest moment in one-day cricket," the Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, said. "It is really great to get to the finals."

World Series (Melbourne) Australia 242

## France keeper banned after drug test

### Football

Fabien Barthez, the French international goalkeeper, has been banned for two months after a drug test showed traces of cannabis.

The punishment imposed by the French Federation, the FFF, includes a further suspended ban of two months and means that the 24-year-old Monaco player could struggle to regain his place for this summer's European Championship.

Barthez's lawyer, Jean-Jacques Bertrand, said the goalkeeper would not appeal in order to complete the ban as quickly as possible. "The sanction is acceptable since there remains a possibility for Barthez to play in Euro '96. But I'm afraid the FFF needed a scapegoat," he said.

### Basketball

Sheffield yesterday landed a double success in the England Basketball Player of the Year Awards. Roger Huggins, of the Sheffield Steelers, won the men's award and Chris Castle, of the Sheffield Hatters, won the women's.

At the awards ceremony, held at the Sheffield Hallam University, Huggins was named the 1995 England Basketball Player of the Year. He was also named the 1995 England Basketball Player of the Year.

Castle was named the 1995 England Basketball Player of the Year. She was also named the 1995 England Basketball Player of the Year.

The awards ceremony was held at the Sheffield Hallam University. It was attended by a large number of guests.

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### Cycling

Jeff Sharpe, of Australia, was yesterday banned from competing in his home-land for two years and also given a six-month international ban for failing a drug test. Sharpe, 27, tested positive for testosterone after his win in last November's Mount Butler Alpine Classic in Victoria state.

The ban was imposed by the Australian Cycling Federation.

Sharpe's lawyer, John Hargrave, said the ban was "unjust and unfair".

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### Ice hockey

NHL: NY Islanders 3 Tampa Bay 2; Boston 0 Vancouver 0; Philadelphia 0 Dallas 1.

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### Snooker

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Stephen Hendry 10-9 Jimmy White.

World 10-9 White.

White 10-9 World.

World 10-9 White.

White 10-9 World.

World 10-9 White.

White 10-9 World.

World 10-9 White.

White 10-9 World.

World 10-9 White.



# SPORT

£40,000 to be won  
See Page 22

## RUGBY UNION

Skrela: France's new revolutionary 22

# Becker taken to the brink by Rusedski

### Tennis

Greg Rusedski went close to causing the first major upset of the Australian Open before losing in five sets to Boris Becker, the fourth seed. Becker eventually won 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, but only after Rusedski had led two sets to one and was threatening Becker's serve at the start of the fourth set.

Rusedski's main weapon is his serve, and he went close to breaking his speed record of 137mph, frequently hitting 130mph, with a best of just under 136mph. Becker often had no answer and his frustration showed as he made several irritated comments to the umpire.

The eighth game of the fourth set and the seventh of the fifth set proved the turning points. On both occasions, Becker suddenly got the measure of Rusedski's serve. Rusedski's volleys lost their punch and Becker went on to win in two hours and 49 minutes.

Rusedski said: "He showed why he's a great player out there. If you give him a bit of a chance, he makes it go on for

ever. That's how he turned the match around. I thought I had a chance throughout but you can never feel you've won against Becker until you've won it."

Becker, who had not won a match at the Australian Open since the second round in 1992, said: "I've broken a jinx by winning. I wasn't nervous, in fact quite the contrary, I was too relaxed. But in the fourth set I realised Greg had a weaker side and I was able to exploit that to my advantage."

Rusedski's defeat leaves Tim Henman flying a lone flag for Britain in the singles. He plays Jonas Bjorkman today after securing his place in the second round with a superb four-set victory over Petr Korda.

He fought back from a set down to win 5-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 and now has the chance to reach the third round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time.

Henman should have won the opening set after leading 4-2. He then lost his service when 5-4 up in the second set, after making a series of groundstroke errors, and could then have gone on to lose the match. But he regained his sense of purpose and built a 6-1 lead in the tie-break, finally

taking it 7-4 on his fourth set point when Korda put a simple forehand into the net.

A break in the third set for a 4-2 lead proved the decisive moment, and as the match moved into the fourth set, Korda looked increasingly tired. Henman missed two match points at 5-3 on his opponent's serve, but finished the match with a love game after a final ace.

"I played somewhere between well and very well," he said. "I probably played better last week [in Sydney] but it was a different sort of match today. I served very well - that is the difference between now and a few months ago. I can serve well for longer stretches."

"I'm obviously very pleased to have won but I think there are areas for improvement. I play well in some matches but not in others, so in my next match I need to buckle down and produce a good performance."

Clare Wood failed to progress, losing 6-4, 6-1 to Conchita Martinez. Her defeat capped a miserable time for the British No 1, who suffered a ligament injury playing at a charity fair in July 1994 when her world ranking was at a career-high 77. She dropped to 232 after the lay-off caused by her injury and was Britain's sole women's singles entrant, ranked 179.

She broke Martinez three times in the opening set, but Martinez gradually found her rhythm and won with an ace after 71 minutes. "I wanted to go to the net more," Wood said. "But she keeps up such a good length that it was difficult. I'm disappointed to have lost, but I suppose winning three matches in the qualifying tournament is a good start to the year."

Pete Sampras, the men's No 1 who feared an early exit after suffering a bout of flu, showed few lingering effects of the illness by beating Richard Fromberg 7-5, 6-3, 6-2. The unseeded Stefan Edberg began his final Australian campaign with a hard-fought 7-6, 7-5, 3-6, 5-7, 6-1 victory over Jiri Novak.

Monica Seles, the women's No 1, ignored the pain from a lingering groin strain to extend her perfect record at the event with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over the American qualifier Janet Lee.



Close call: Rusedski's serves rattled Becker, but he was let down by his volleying Photograph: Chris Cole/Empics



Sole survivor: Tim Henman came back from a set down yesterday to be the only Briton in the second round of the singles Photograph: Mark Baker/Reuters

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD in association with

**CHARLES WELLS** **BOMBARDIER** **PREMIUM BITTER**

No. 2835, Wednesday 17 January By Aquila Yesterday's Solution

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**ACROSS**

- Red-hot water-heater, from the sound of it (7)
- Going by order of shorter English dictionary, with a long appendix (7)
- Freeing of Poles in new dating element? (15)
- Cautious about putting church alongside a railway (5)
- Jumper, perhaps, chap wears first? (9)
- With no-one up, original verdict is to stand (9)
- Decline is light around city area (5)
- Birds found in another nesting-site (5)

**DOWN**

- Cocktail only taken in combination? (7)
- Salad seedlings mess - add currants, perhaps (7,3,5)
- Garden feast helps retired people to keep warm (9)
- Dandy garden plant (9)
- Silent film? (5)
- Dexterous sort gets finger caught in trap fories set (15)
- Anguish of the French second couple (7)
- Right smarty suffering with people in poor health? (7)
- Colour yarn to do fancy needlework (9)
- One using bank in place oo ring-road (9)
- Einstein's earliest science copied and poured forth (7)
- Fun with old-fashioned aggregates (7)
- Sanskrit words bringing over skill to America? (5)
- Entreat musicians to turn up for woman of high rank (5)

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CALL 0891 311 017

When you have the answers to the first three clues down phone 0891 311 017 and leave your answers with your name address and daytime telephone number by midnight tonight. Each day there is a case of Charles Wells Bombardier Premium Bitter to win. PLUS from all entries for the week a winner will be selected for a Weekend for two in a Charles Wells Country Hotel.

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute all other times. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received. No cash alternative. Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Winners' names can be obtained by sending an SAE to - Charles Wells Crossword, Unit A, Bowe House, St Peters Road, Maidenhead SL6 7QU

## Premier League vetoes the Intertoto Cup

### Football

Premier League clubs yesterday gave the thumbs down to this summer's Intertoto Cup and their unanimous support to Tottenham and Wimbledon in their battle with Uefa, European football's governing body.

The two clubs were last week banned for a season from European competition after the shambles of last year's Intertoto tournament, in which they fielded under-strength teams, which has cost English football a Uefa Cup place in 1996/97.

However, the Premiership chief executive, Rick Parry, said the decision not to compete this

coming close season was taken "purely on practical considerations". Clearly, however, chairmen are unhappy that the two London clubs have been made scapegoats - as is the Football Association, which is backing an appeal by Spurs and Wimbledon to have the suspension lifted.

Meanwhile, Uefa yesterday insisted it would maintain its three-foreigner limit this season. The decision puts it in conflict with the European Union's highest court, which ruled last month that the limit on foreigners is illegal and should be abolished. Uefa's stance - in the "interest of continuity and fairness" - also puts it at odds with the Premier League.

Aberdeen oo Sunday. Hearts were crushed 4-0 at Tynecastle and 3-1 at Celtic Park earlier in the season but Jim Jefferies' side are now full of confidence. "They have been playing well but we are only thinking about ourselves," Burns said.

Hearts have won four of their last five games, including three in a row for the first time in 15 months, and Jefferies is contemplating one change from the team which beat Falkirk on Saturday. Young defender Alan McManus, who at 21 has played barely a handful of games, could make way for ex-Ranger Dave McPherson. Paul Smith is also on stand-by for a midfield place.

## Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz is naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

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